

House committee finds funds misused

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament's committee on financial affairs on Tuesday reported that the government has failed to collect JD 101,217,400 in dues due to weaknesses in the Ministry of Finance's control and follow-up procedures in collecting money and because of loopholes in the law which governs the activities of the Audit Bureau. The committee told the House that misuse of funds and over-expenditures on certain projects which proved to be a failure as well as huge amounts which were spent on feasibility studies have acted against the Finance Ministry's efforts to collect all dues on time. Prime Minister Zaid Rifai replied to the comments made in the committee report. (See full story on page 3).

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King to make major speech today

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein will make a nation-wide radio and television address at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, an official announcement said Tuesday. The announcement said that King Hussein will present Jordan's view with regard to the current problem and Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the latest developments in the Middle East conflict.



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Prince Sultan, Nsour meet in Riyadh

RIYADH (Petra) — Saudi Second Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz on Tuesday received Planning Minister Abdullah Nsour. Dr. Nsour is currently on a visit to Saudi Arabia. Prince Sultan and Dr. Nsour discussed Saudi-Jordanian bilateral relations and cooperation. Saudi Minister of Finance Mohammed Abul Khatib attended the meeting.

Bomb explodes in Tiberias

TEL AVIV (R) — A bomb exploded on Tuesday in the northern town of Tiberias but caused no casualties, police said. They said the explosion occurred near the main bus station of the town which overlooks the Sea of Galilee.

Israel jails two Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — An Israeli court sentenced one Palestinian to life imprisonment and another to 18 years on Tuesday for allegedly killing an Israeli taxi driver in the outskirts of Jerusalem last April. Three Israelis have been charged with the "revenger" murder of an Arab taxi driver in Jerusalem several days later. The Palestinian sentenced to life imprisonment was identified as Muhammad Ashur. Identification of the second man was withheld because he is a minor. The trial of a third Palestinian alleged to be involved in the killing is still taking place.

EC court backs U.K. ban on oil exports to Israel

LUXEMBOURG (AP) — The European Court of Justice ruled Tuesday that a British government policy effectively banning North Sea oil exports to Israel does not violate European Community (EC) law. The ruling will likely upset Israel which has been frustrated in its attempts in the past six years to diversify its sources of oil supply by the British ban on oil exports. In 1982, Bulk Oil A.G. of Switzerland was fined \$15 million in Britain for trying to sell British North Sea crude to Israel. The oil was sold to Bulk by Sun Oil Trading Co.

Greece confirms Soviet official is missing in Athens

ATHENS (R) — The Greek government confirmed on Tuesday that a Soviet employee at Moscow's embassy in Athens had disappeared with his son and a nanny but declined comment on press reports that they had sought asylum at the U.S. embassy. A U.S. embassy spokesman also declined comment on the reports. Deputy government spokesman Antonis Kouris said the Greek authorities have asked the Soviet authorities to search for Viktor Gudarev, 50, his eight-year-old son, Maxim and Galina Gudareva, the boy's 30-year-old nanny who vanished on Friday.

Iraq reports beating back Iranian thrust

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ SAID it beat off an Iranian attack in the central sector of the Fao peninsula overnight, killing more than 1,200 Iranians in a fierce five-hour battle.

Brigadier Ali Jassim Al Hayani, commander of one of three columns battling Iranian troops who thrust into southern Iraq nine days ago, said on Baghdad Radio the Iranians had attacked "the whole front" of his column.

"A fierce battle raged for five hours, ending at 4 a.m. today (0100 GMT) with the destruction of the enemy troops, who suffered more than 1,200 men killed and large numbers wounded, in addition to a number captured," Brig. Hayani said.

The three Iraqi columns counter-attacked five days ago and the army daily Al Qadisiya quoted commanders as saying they were "recapturing Iraqi land by inches from the enemy, which continues to push groups of its forces to the front."

Iraq said on Monday its air force had destroyed six bridges in the Iranian cities of Abadan and Mohammarab (Khorramshahr) on the Shatt Al Arab waterway to cut enemy reinforcement and supply lines.

Reuters correspondent Subhy Haddad reported from Basra, 80 kilometers northwest of the main fighting in the Fao peninsula, that the calm of Iraq's second city was disturbed by the scream of warplanes flying to pound Iranian positions.

Along the main road from Baghdad to Basra he saw hundreds of tanks, missiles, heavy guns, trucks and other military vehicles, also heading south.

The heavy traffic doubled the normal length of the journey to Basra, to nine hours.

Meanwhile, Iran claimed its forces continued to advance from the oil port of Fao moving north towards Basra and west towards the Iraqi naval base of Umm Qasr next to the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border.

Baghdad dailies on Tuesday quoted Air Marshal Hameed Shalwan as saying Iraqi strikes had deprived the encircled Iranian troops of key supply routes and he expected them as a result "to either surrender or be annihilated."

The strikes had also prevented the Iranians evacuating casualties to the rear, he said.

Iraq said Monday night its gunners shot down an Iranian F-4 Phantom jet and a helicopter gunship over the battlefield. It also said two Iranian navy supply ships were destroyed in the Gulf Monday night.

Another commander, who is coordinating the three Iraqi columns along the northern Gulf coast, said the tide of battle was turning for Iraq.

"The situation in general is in Iraq's favour, with the armed forces starting to recapture Iraqi territory during the past 48 hours," Lieutenant-General Hisham Sabah Al Fakhrli told the Iraqi News Agency, INA.

The foreign ministers of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah and Prince Saud Al Faisal, left Baghdad on Tuesday after meeting President Saddam Hussein Monday night.

Iraqi media gave no details of the meeting.

(Continued on page 4)

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai addresses the Lower House of Parliament on Tuesday (Petra photo)



Prime Minister Zaid Rifai addresses the Lower House of Parliament on Tuesday (Petra photo)



Central Bank partially floats exchange rates

By Dr. Fahed Fanek
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Central Bank has issued new regulations to overhaul the procedures of dealing in dollar and other foreign currencies by commercial banks and financial corporations in Jordan.

According to the new regulations, which have gone into effect since Feb. 1, the Central Bank will not buy or sell foreign exchange except on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. It will not issue a price or entertain any request during the weekend days — on Fridays in Jordan and in the international markets on Fridays and Saturdays.

On the other hand, commercial banks and financial corporations are no more obliged to apply the exchange rates fixed daily by the Central Bank as was the case prior to Feb. 1. Financial institutions can now quote any price they deem appropriate, provided that the selling rate of any currency will not exceed the Central Bank's published selling rate, and the buying rate will not be lower than the Central Bank's buying rate.

In other words, the commercial banks are now given the freedom to quote any price within the range set by the Central Bank.

It is thus normal under the circumstances to expect that commercial banks will apply the Central Bank's ceiling price on outgoing transfers, certified cheques, drafts, bills for collection and imports letters of credit. The floor price will be applied to incoming transfers, cheques bought, drafts drawn on banks, bills for collection abroad, and export letters of credit.

The Central Bank has also permitted commercial banks and financial corporations to collect the usual commissions and difference of exchange that they used to charge their customers.

According to figures released by the Central Bank this week the margin between selling rate and buying rate of the dollar is currently less than one per cent. This means that the freedom of banks to vary the exchange rate of the dollar is now limited to this narrow margin. Therefore, the new instructions do not amount to a full fledged floatation of the dollar rate vis-a-vis the Jordanian dinar or even close to it.

According to the new regulations, the Central Bank will publish, on four days a week, prices for the dollar only. It will cease to sell all other foreign currencies. However, the Central Bank will continue to buy other currencies, at prices to be agreed upon, taking into account the prevailing rate in the international markets. This may be considered a partial floatation of the exchange rates of foreign currencies (except the dollar) vis-a-vis the Jordanian dinar.

In theory at least the new regulations should create flexibility which strong customers can use to obtain better rates from their bankers, since a measure of competition is now allowed among bankers in the field of foreign exchange transactions.

However, taking the instructions as a whole, one should note that they are no more than a banking procedural reform of the foreign exchange dealings. They have no major economic or monetary consequences. They do not indicate any important change in the Central Bank's policies towards foreign exchange rates.

The new instructions will become extremely important if, and only if, the Central Bank widens the margin of rate fluctuation to become say 10 per cent instead of the present narrow margin.

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Rifai urges Arab and Islamic support of Iraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai on Tuesday called on Arab and Islamic countries to stand by Iraq in confronting the Iranian regime's aggression on Iraqi territory. Mr. Rifai said His Majesty King Hussein has been in constant touch with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to discuss the latest Iranian offensive and has been assured that the Iraqi armed forces have contained the new attack and will soon defeat the Iranian invaders.

Mr. Rifai was addressing the Lower House of Parliament during a session in which deputies denounced the Iranian aggression on Iraq and voiced support for the King's national stand and backing for Iraq. Iraq is now waging a battle in defence of the Arab Homeland and the Iraqi armed forces continue a heroic struggle to safeguard the Arab nation's dignity, the prime minister said.

He continued that Jordan, under King Hussein, has supported Iraq since the start of the Iranian aggression on Iraqi territory more than five years ago. Jordan will not change its policy or stand since it is a national duty and a national commitment. Mr. Rifai said.

The Iraqi forces are gaining the upper hand in the battlefield and the day will soon come when we all will celebrate an Iraqi victory which would put an end to the war, Mr. Rifai added.

At the outset of the session, several deputies made speeches lauding the Iraqi armed forces struggle in the face of the Iranian aggression and expressing total support for King Hussein who, they said, pledged Jordan's total support and help for the Iraqi people.

Deputy Mohammad Ahmad Al Thweib said there is no justification for the Arab countries (Continued on page 4)

Mubarak expects Jordan-PLO accord on accepting 242

CAIRO (Agencies) — President Hosni Mubarak said on Tuesday he expected Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to agree a formula to advance Middle East peace efforts.

The Egyptian leader was speaking to reporters after talks with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and indirect consultations, through a close aide, with His Majesty King Hussein.

There was a misunderstanding, but no problem between Jordan and the PLO on a formula linking PLO acceptance of two United Nations resolutions implying recognition of Israel's right to exist with Palestinian demands for self-determination, Mr. Mubarak said.

Mr. Mubarak did not disclose the differences between Jordan and the PLO.

There would be more Jordan-PLO contacts in the next two days, he said, adding: "We expect they will be able to reach a settlement to overcome the point regarding acceptance of (U.N. Resolutions) 242 and 338 and finding a formula for it."

He said Egypt was trying to help the PLO and Jordan reach a formula to allow the holding of an international conference on Middle East peace.

The PLO must recognise the Jewish state's right to exist, which acceptance of the two U.N. resolutions would imply, before they will talk with it.

Mr. Arafat says terms for acceptance are under discussion and said last weekend that three formulae, details of which he did not disclose, had been presented to Washington.

The PLO has rejected the resolutions for years because they treat the Palestinians as refugees and do not assert their right to self-determination.

Mr. Mubarak said Jordan conveyed the three formulas to Washington, and Egypt was only "informed of them."

He brushed aside questions about Washington's reaction to them, saying: "Let us first agree among ourselves and then look for the American position."

Mr. Mubarak said Mr. Arafat will leave Cairo "in one or two days, and I don't know where he will be going." The PLO leader left the meeting without talking to reporters.

Mr. Mubarak said he expects to get together again with Mr. Arafat "after a while" to resume Egyptian good offices.

(Continued on page 4)

Lebanese fighters battle Israelis searching for 2 captive soldiers

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanese commandos battled with helicopter-borne Israeli troops as they swept across South Lebanon with tanks and gunships on Tuesday and an Israeli navy sailor was killed by shore fire as Israel conducted a search for two of its soldiers captured in a commando ambush.

Beirut radio called the sweep an "outright new invasion" and said Lebanon instructed its U.N. ambassador, Rashid Fakhoury, to lodge a complaint with the Security Council against the Israeli action now in its second day.

The radio reported that the guerrillas shot down an Israeli helicopter gunship near Srafa, just south of the Litani River, 24 kilometres north of the Israeli border.

The state radio said three Lebanese fighters were killed and six wounded. U.N. spokesman Timor Goksel said six civilians were also wounded in the fighting.

The radio said Lebanese militia fighters clashed with the Israelis in several villages within and outside U.N.-policed zones in South Lebanon. Hand-to-hand combat was reported in one firefight.

Witnesses quoted by AP said Israel poured more tanks and hundreds of troops in armoured personnel carriers and buses across the mountainous border into Lebanon at dawn.

Cobra helicopter gunships circled as Israeli soldiers surrounded about a dozen villages in quick succession, ordering residents out of their homes and questioning them, witnesses told Reuters.

"Today's operation is much bigger than yesterday," a Dutch U.N. observer said at a village near Sidon as troops escorted three young men along a street with their hands bound.

The southern hamlets lie up to 12 kilometres north of Israel's border "security zone" where fighters of the Islamic Resistance Front on Tuesday ambushed cars carrying Israelis in civilian clothes and pro-Israeli militiamen.

The attack prompted the massive Israeli sweep north of the zone. Jet planes also streaked low over Lebanon on Tuesday, repeatedly breaking the sound barrier in the south and over Beirut.

The Islamic Resistance Front, reported for "health reasons" at the plenum, which precedes the opening of the 27th Communist Party congress on Feb. 25.

led by the radical Shi'ite Hizbollah (Party of God), said it had killed 10 Israelis and seized two, but Israeli said only two militiamen died.

The front said Tuesday the two captives have been removed to a "safe location well beyond Israel's reach."

"They are receiving treatment for gunshot wounds they suffered in the ambush," said a statement issued in Beirut by the front.

The front said it would distribute photographs of the two prisoners. Lebanese Television Monday night showed film of a man swathed in bandages which it said was one of the Israelis.

Villagers in the path of the Israeli advance reported several casualties on Tuesday, but could not provide figures.

"They made three of us lie on the ground and fired over our heads," Bilal Subh, 13, said in Kfar Dounein village. "My seven-year-old cousin Haicham was wounded in the leg by helicopter guns."

The Israeli army command said a navy sailor was killed when fire was directed from the Tyre area at a navy boat patrolling off shore.

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Reuter adds: Mr. Grishin was reported by party sources to have opposed the appointment of Mr. Gorbachev to succeed Konstantin Chernenko last March.

He was widely seen as the figurehead for the conservative "old guard" of senior party officials that became the target for Mr. Gorbachev's drive for renewal in party and state ranks.

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Chad vows to crush Libya-backed rebels

N'DJAMENA (R) — The Chadian government, buoyed by the arrival of the advance guard of French reinforcements, on Tuesday pledged itself to rid the country of rebels.

An official statement said Chad was "determined to do all in its power to ensure the total liberation of the occupied part of the territory."

Broadcast after a meeting of officials under President Hissene Habre, the statement said Chad could not "bargain over its sovereignty and freedom."

It thanked France for heeding its call for military help against Libyan-backed rebels occupying the north of the country, saying that France's response showed it was determined to "respect its commitments towards Chad and Africa."

France sent four warplanes on Monday to its former colony as advance guard of what Paris said was a deterrence to further "Libyan aggression."

N'djamena's international airport remained closed to civilian aircraft after a lone bomber attacked and damaged part of the runway.

France said the plane which attacked N'djamena airport was Libyan while Tripoli said it belonged to rebels.

AP adds: The Libyan-backed rebel movement in Chad on Tuesday formally claimed responsibility for the N'djamena bombing on Monday.

It claimed that in a statement issued on state-run Tripoli Radio. The broadcast said it was quoting "the official spokesman" of the GUNT, who had issued the statement to the "Voice of the Greater Arab Nation" radio station run by Libya's revolutionary committee.

The rebel spokesman said "the GUNT possesses fighter aircraft and its own Chadian pilots."

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Obeid, Syrian minister review operations of joint transport companies

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Syrian Land Transport Company's general assembly opened a meeting in Amman Tuesday to discuss a general budget for the company a programme of activities in the coming years. The assembly meeting will also explore the prospects of expanding the company's operations. The meeting is co-chaired by Transport Minister Fathi Obeid and his Syrian counterpart Yusuf Al Ahmad.

The two ministers Monday night co-chaired a meeting of the Jordanian-Syrian Maritime Transport Company, held at the Transport Ministry. Mr. Obeid said that the meeting was designed to give further momentum to the joint company.

During the meeting the two

sides discussed a general budget for 1986, which amounted to 77 million Syrian pounds and a plan for investments for the coming years. The plan envisages expanding the company's activities to cover the transportation of goods from the Far East to Aqaba port. Also discussed at the meeting was expanding the company's fleet by purchasing additional cargo ships to serve the land and maritime services in both countries.

The JSMTTC was established in 1976 with a capital of one million Syrian pounds shares equally between Jordan and Syria. At present the company owns two cargo ships, Barada and Yarmouk, which transport goods between Syrian ports and Europe.

Prince Hassan, JBA pay tribute to retired judge

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday called at the residence of Mr. Mousa Al Saket, former chief judge of the court of Cassation who recently retired. Prince Hassan paid tribute to Mr. Saket for his long term in office and his services to the Jordanian judicial system. He also enquired after his health.

Also Tuesday, the Jordanian Bar Association held a ceremony

at the Professional Associations Complex to honour Mr. Saket who served in the justice ministry for more than 50 years. Several leading lawyers spoke at the reception paying tribute to Mr. Saket who, they said, had offered valuable services to the judicial system in Jordan. The ceremony was attended by Minister of Justice Riyad Al Shakra, Chief Islamic Justice Mohammad Mhailan, heads of Jordanian trade unions, judges and lawyers.

Wadi Seer governor announces results of municipal elections

AMMAN (J.T.) — Municipal elections held at Wadi Seer Monday resulted in the incumbent mayor Hosni Sobar winning 1,308 votes of a total of 8,243 with his main rival, Mohammad Ahmad Salameh, clinching 1,226 votes, according to an announcement by district governor Issa Mahmoud.

He said the counting of votes, which ended late Monday night, showed that a total of 8,243 people took part in the elections to choose nine members for the new council. Altogether 18 candidates

ran for the election and they were grouped into two main blocs, one of which was led by Mr. Sobar. The municipal authorities assigned 17 boxes, of which nine were for women, according to Al Ra'i daily newspaper which monitored the election. The newspaper said that polling started at eight in the morning and ended at seven in the evening. According to the paper, the total number of eligible voters as registered in the municipality was 13,019 but nearly 5,000 did not take part.

Japanese Film Festival: Different cinema with traditional theatrical background

By J.H. Rotter
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Apart from truly dedicated film buffs, it is doubtful that most people's knowledge of the Japanese film industry goes much further than recognising the names of the director Akira Kurosawa and the actor Toshirō Mifune, and, having a passing acquaintance with the film "The Seven Samurai". Even this knowledge is, in all probability, restricted to the fact that it was the model of the Hollywood western "The Magnificent Seven". However, this week (Wednesday the 19th and Thursday the 20th) offers a chance for film-goers to expand their knowledge of a film industry that for nearly two decades — the 1920's and 1930's — had an annual output which, although confined to domestic screens, was exceeded only by that of the United States, which controlled the international market. The Royal Cultural Centre, in cooperation with the Japanese Embassy, is screening Rashomon, (Wednesday), and Two Sisters Of Kyoto, (Thursday). Both films are subtitled in English and start at 8.00 p.m. Admission is free but prior reservation is advised through the R.C.C. (Tel: 661026).

Apart from the language barrier, the reasons for the rest of the world's unfamiliarity with Japanese cinema can be found partly in the strict formalism and ritual of Japanese theatre, (Noh and Kabuki are obvious examples), which extended into the cinema and were a dominating force until only very recently. The commercial Japanese theatre of the early 1900's had two main areas: Shimpa (new) and Kyūha (old). With the coming of film these in turn evolved into two equally separate genres: Shimpa into the gendai-geki, or contemporary film, and Kyūha into the jidaigeki, or period, genre.

Another point of departure from conventional "western" film-making is that, as with the older arts of Japan, one of the defining characteristics of mainstream Japanese cinema is the tendency to work within the relatively fixed elements of a genre. In this sense the Japanese cinema closely resembles oral narrative traditions in which the storyteller does not create a unique tale so much as he draws upon an established body of myths and themes to assemble his version of a familiar plot or story. Also, even at its most illusionistic, the Japanese film has existed in a perceptual context where the audience

acknowledges, and enjoys the skills of the actors and, to a lesser extent, the director. No matter how convincing his performance, the actor seldom disappears entirely into the character he plays. The Japanese cinema throughout its history has exhibited a dialectic tension between slice-of-life naturalism and presentational, formalistic elements. There are three "Golden Ages" of Japanese cinema. The first was that of the jidaigeki and its dependence on the Samurai warrior and sword-play. The archetypal jidaigeki hero was a lonely, alienated, imperfect human, almost always a Ronin — a masterless Samurai — caught in conflict between his obligations, (giri) and his personal feelings, (ninjo). Ninjo is the preponderant motif of mainstream jidaigeki (and gendai-geki) films. It is a term often translated as "human feelings," and it grows out of the emotional heritage of mankind and is viewed as the essence of what it takes to be human. Ideally, ninjo should govern an individual's thought and action. In the two most familiar treatments of ninjo, a character's ninjo comes into conflict with his or her giri, or the respective ninjo of two or more characters are somehow in opposition.

The second golden age was that of "talkie realism," ushered in by the advent of sound. Even here a significant difference from other cinematic conventions can be found, in that the basis for this Japanese realism was primarily in the representational quality of the materials photographed and recorded rather than in the editing and mise-en-scene conventions of sound-film realism established by European and American filmmakers in the 1920's. The third golden age, which in several important ways both reflected and differed from the previous ages, started at the end of the second world war. Prominent among its early proponents was Akira Kurosawa. Born in 1910, his directing career began during the war, and it helped to set the first important creative directions after 1945, in spite of the fact that until 1949 strict censorship control over the Japanese cinema was operated by the U.S. occupation forces. Stylistic and technical experimentation, along with what critics called a "humanistic and positive" outlook, typify his work. One of his earliest films to gain recognition in Japan was his study of the militarist repression of the 1930's and 1940's, "Wage Seishun Ni Kai Nashi", ("No Regrets For

Financial Committee presents Parliament with report on Audit Bureau findings

Investigating body cites over-spending, 'loopholes' in procedures as main reasons for ministries', departments' failure to collect JD 101,217,400 in due payments

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Misuse of funds in ministries and public institutions, together with weaknesses in the Ministry of Finance's control and follow-up procedures, has made it difficult for the government to collect JD 101,217,400 in dues, the Lower House of Parliament Financial Committee reported Tuesday.

The committee was reporting to the House after studying the 33rd Audit Bureau report of 1984. The Audit Bureau is an independent government organisation and is directly linked to the Prime Ministry. Its function is to audit the budgets of all ministries as well as government and semi-government institutions.

The committee's report cited over-spending on numerous feasibility studies conducted by some ministries, over-expenditure on other government projects as well as the failure of some government ministries and institutions to collect money from the public as well as other government organisations as the main reasons for "the startling amount of money which the government did not manage to collect on time."

The report said that Ministry of Finance failed to collect a total of JD 101,217,400 in dues which were divided as follows:

- JD 81,640,060 in overdue obligations to various ministries, government departments, semi-government institutions as well as municipalities.
- JD 8,674,154 in loans and other dues.
- JD 4,121,887 in loans and payments to government departments from other government departments.

The report, which was submitted to the Lower House in November and studied by the Financial Committee between Dec. 28 and Jan. 29, said that the Ministry of Health is owed JD

1,470,822 by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA), the Ministry of Communications is owed JD 1,812,715 by the government and citizens as tele and telephone charges, the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment is due JD 3,888,590 from municipalities which have exceeded their allowances, Amman Municipality is owed JD 11,030,477 from citizens, the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) is due JD 2,001,448 for supplying water which has not been paid for by either government departments or the public, the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) has to collect JD 7,132,299 from the Jordan Electricity Power Company (JEPCO), the Jordan Valley Authority has recorded a loss of JD 256,000 as a result of purchasing boats at a cost of \$1,128,000 which were not used, binding contracts made by the Ministry of Public Works and other ministries have resulted in over expenditure and burdened the treasury, Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, is owed JD 26 million from local and international agents, and that its hotel, the Gateway, as well as a number of projects it owns such as the Flying Carpet, and the cargo hangars were losing money for the company. The Audit Bureau report also gave other examples of financial mismanagement, over-expenditure and misuse of all occasions which had resulted in the government being unable to col-

lect due payments for 1984. The Financial Committee, in its report, said that the various ministries and heads of government departments were requested to participate in the committee's discussions in order to give their explanations and comments on various projects, feasibility studies and due payments.

Finance Ministry

Reporting on their discussions with Minister of Finance Hanna Odeh, the committee said that he said the ministry had failed to collect JD 101,217,400 in dues because of loopholes in the ministry's control and follow-up procedures and because of the current economic recession in Jordan. Dr. Odeh promised the committee that all in dues will be collected and that collection efforts will be intensified.

The committee revealed that the ministry was taking a five per cent commission on the amount of money it collects as building fees. This commission was divided among the employees who collect these revenues as an incentive to collect these fees. The committee said it did not object to dividends being divided among employees, but requested the ministry to provide a balance sheet payment to explain how the five per cent, or JD 500,000, was distributed.

The committee said that one of the Finance Ministry's shortcomings was that it never provided its closing accounts within the defined one year period. The Audit Bureau law says that the Ministry of Finance is requested to present the closing accounts of each ministry in not more than 12 months. The committee also investigated the budget addendums, which are added by the government whenever it exceeds its allocated expenditure limits as provided for in each fiscal budget.

In response to the committee's report on the Ministry of Finance, Mr. Rifai said that all dues will be collected as they are recorded in books. He noted that 70 per cent of the due JD 101,217,400 has already been collected and the rest will be settled later. He also said that he had called on the ministry to settle its closing accounts within a maximum period of 12 months. Budget addendums will be submitted to House for approval and will have to be passed as law.

Health Ministry

The committee, reporting on discussions with Health Minister Zaid Hamzah, said that the Health Ministry had to cancel some of its projects because of the expensive feasibility studies which governed them or due to lack of funds.

In response, Mr. Rifai said that the Prince Hamzah Hospital, on which a feasibility study costing JD 1,039,887 was made, was later shelved due to limited funds. The prime minister said he also requested the ministry to provide only essential facilities at the proposed Irbid, Ajloun, Karak and Tafila hospitals in a further effort to cut cost.

The reasons for the delay in using the Health Ministry's computer, the prime minister said, were because of a lack of trained staff. The Royal Scientific Society has provided the ministry with staff and other services and the computer is now functioning, he added.

The committee's report said that the Ministry of Health bought a radiation unit at a cost of \$994,500,000 three years ago but the unit has not been installed because there was no properly equipped centre in which to house it. The ministry is paying storage

fees of \$500 a month for this unit, the report said.

Mr. Rifai explained that the Health Ministry was instructed to sell the unit but failed to do so because it was especially designed for use in Jordan. "However, the unit will be functioning in March of this year after all necessary facilities have been established," the prime minister added.

The Health Ministry's dues from UNRWA will be settled as soon as the agency has the financial means to pay, Mr. Rifai continued.

Telecommunications

Regarding the TCC, Mr. Rifai said that 70 per cent of the amount in the 1984 report has been collected by the corporation through a campaign to disconnect subscribers who failed to pay their tele and telephone bills. The rest will be collected soon, Mr. Rifai added.

Discussing the high operating costs of the Amman-Baghdad microwave link, Mr. Rifai said that the expenses were due to a "calculation error in the original contract and because of changes on some of the project's sites."

Mr. Rifai said that the Ministry of Rural Affairs, in cooperation with the Cities and Villages Development Bank (CVDB), has drawn up certain guidelines to grant loans to municipalities which guarantee to repay these loans on time.

Water Authority

The WAJ, Mr. Rifai said, has also launched a working plan to collect due payments but he noted that the majority of the 12,500 subscribers who have failed to settle their accounts had left the country, making it difficult for the authority to settle its accounts. The prime minister also pointed out that some government departments have not paid their accounts with the WAJ but would do so soon.

He said that the local contracting company which is currently working on the construction of the Ma'an-Ras Al Naqab Highway, won the contract because it offered the lowest price in that bid. He also said that the government had ordered the Ministry of Finance to stop plans for establishing a complex to host all its departments until the right location was found.

The boats, purchased by the JVA, will be transferred to Aqaba as they could not be used at the Dead Sea where they were intended to be used for tourists.

Mr. Rifai went on to discuss Alia's JD 26 million in due payments and said the airline's current account with government institutions is JD 4 million whilst its account with international agents is JD 8 million, guaranteed by deposits. The prime minister added that current liabilities to Alia and some Arab and Asian countries are JD 11 million, out of which JD 6 million were paid to the airline in 1985.

Mr. Rifai said that there are two unsettled accounts amounting to JD 500,000 between Alia, the

Foreign Ministry and the Central Bank of Jordan, which will be settled soon. There are also unsettled accounts between Alia, the Arab Wings company, Sierra Leone airline and the Arab Air Cargo Company amounting to JD 2 million. The Sierra Leone airline has returned JD 800,000, and the Arab Air Cargo Company has paid JD 500,000 while Arab Wings is settling its accounts through a bank, the prime minister said.

The delay in construction of the Gateway Hotel prompted Alia to cancel its contract with the contractors in accordance with the contract law. The committee's remarks on the Gateway Hotel said that it cost Alia JD 7 million, which the airline obtained as a loan. Since the construction deadline was not met, Alia lost money as it had to pay interest on the loans it received, the prime minister said.

Following are the statement and recommendations of the Lower House Financial Committee on the Audit Bureau report: The Financial Committee, after investigating the Audit Bureau report, has found violations and illegal actions in some government departments. The committee has issued a number of recommendations were issued regarding these violations, which could be of great damage to public interest.

— All governmental institutions should abide by legal regulations and directives for the benefit of public interest.

— Institutions should give due concern to collecting overdue money. Government institutions should develop and promote fee-collection methods as on the spot fee-collection provides the treasury with enough funds and reduces possibilities for resorting to loans.

— Projects, especially high cost schemes, should not be implemented through binding contracts. Such projects should be submitted as tenders in accordance with the regulations, unless they are urgent.

— Institutions should not purchase goods or supplies unless they are badly needed. There have been cases when many purchases were made but the materials kept unused in stores.

— High-cost feasibility studies should not be done on projects for which there are not available funds. The committee has learned that large sums of money were spent as a result of such studies.

— Complete adherence when executing these projects to the allocated funds in the general budget or the budget of official institutions which are not covered by the general budget.

— The questioning and punishment of violating employees who incur damage and losses in public funds through negligence or carelessness in studies and execution of these projects.

— The support of internal supervision in all the government's systems and the intensifying of internal inspection on employees handling finances.

— The necessity to respond immediately to enquiries addressed to the official from the Audit Bureau within the legal period.

— The necessity to institute a special system for handling the five per cent given to the Ministry of Finance from the tax on real estate in return for collecting these taxes. The special system should also include the allocation of funds to be given as bonuses for employees who collect these fees, including Audit Bureau employees, and the allocation of funds to improve collecting methods.

Recommendations on Audit Bureau activities

In order to raise the efficiency of the Audit Bureau and increase its capacity for general supervision of public funds, the committee recommends the following:

— The request from the government to increase the number of employees at the Audit Bureau should be implemented, provided that these employees have the required qualifications in the scientific and technical fields. They should not be employees who have been dismissed from other ministries or department because of a surplus in their number there.

— The need to amend the fourth article of the Audit Bureau law number 27 for the year 1952, to give authority to the cabinet to commission the Audit Bureau to supervise and audit share-holding companies in which the government has at least 50 per cent of its shares.

— The need to amend the Audit Bureau law to give it authority to take part in feasibility studies for all economic development projects the government intends to undertake.

— The necessity that the Audit Bureau's supervision should cover all economic institutions with no exception.

— The amendment of the Audit Bureau law to allow the bureau's president the authority to refer employees who commit financial violations to a disciplinary council until a decision by the council is made, without being satisfied with a request to that effect from the employee's direct superior.

— The amendment of the law so as to include an article under which conflicts that may occur between the bureau and any government institution would be referred to an independent council comprising the finance minister, the bureau's president, the Finance Ministry's under secretary or the head of the institution where the conflict developed. This council would be the arbitrator by a majority decision.

— The bureau's president should be accredited the same treatment as a cabinet member as far as salary and other benefits are concerned. Also, granting the bureau's employees encouraging bonuses that do not exceed 50 per cent of the employee's salary.

— Since article 3 of item 21 of the Audit Bureau law stipulates that the final budget by the Ministry of Finance should be presented within a period that does not exceed 12 months from the end of the fiscal year, and since the ministry is not adhering to this article and is always late in presenting the budget, the committee requests the need to adhere to this legal article.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

We have examined the Balance Sheet of SIEMENS AKTIENGESSELLSCHAFT — Jordan Branch (Foreign Limited Co.) as at 31st December, 1985 and the related Profit and Loss Statement for the year then ended, and have obtained all the information and explanations which we required for the purposes of our audit.

In our opinion, and according to the records and vouchers of the Company and to the information and explanations given to us, the accompanying Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statement present fairly the financial position of SIEMENS AKTIENGESSELLSCHAFT-Jordan Branch as at 31st December, 1985 and the result of its operations for the year then ended.

Bawab & Co.
Accountants & Auditors
Amman

Amman, 29th January, 1986

SIEMENS AKTIENGESSELLSCHAFT JORDAN BRANCH BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 1985

	JD	Fils	JD	Fils
ASSETS				
FIXED ASSETS				
Office furniture and equipment	18637	235		
Less accumulated depreciation	6281	536	12355	699
House furniture and fixtures	8153	965		
Less accumulated depreciation	2850	037	5303	928
			17659	627
CURRENT ASSETS				
Cash in hand	1004	289		
Cash at the British Bank of the Middle East	121	138		
Accounts receivable	9000	000	10125	427
			27785	054
LIABILITIES				
ACCRUED EXPENSES (Note 3)				
			1400	000
HEAD OFFICE FUNDS				
Registered Capital In Jordan	10000	000		
SIEMENS - Germany	34125	072		
	44125	072		
Less: Loss for 1985	17740	018	26385	054
			27785	054

Amman 29th January, 1986

General Manager

CAUTIONARY NOTICE IN YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

NOTICE is hereby given that ENICHEM POLIMERI S.p.A., a company organized under law of the Italian Republic, of Via Mazzini 8, SASSARI, Italy, are the sole owners and exclusive proprietors of the invention entitled:

"SPRINKLER LINE FOR LOCALIZED IRRIGATION"

It is based upon the Italian Patent Application No. 23.151/A/84 filed on October 15, 1984 in the name of ENICHEM POLIMERI S.p.A. and RIVEDA S.p.A.

The inventors are: Augusto FABBRI (Chemist of Italian nationality) born at MONTECUCOLO (Forlì - Italy on 9/7/1945, residing at QUARTIANO DI MULLAZZANO (Milan - Italy) Via Adige 14 and Aldo RIVI (Technician of Italian nationality) born at CASTELLARANO (Reggio Emilia) Italy on 30/12/1933, residing at FERRARA (Italy) Via Beata Lucia da Nemi 1.

Abstract of the invention: A throwaway sprinkler line for localized irrigation is constituted by a hose provided with holes at equal distances from each other, and with inner flexible membranes sticking to the inner wall of said hose by means of welds near the said holes, and capable of forming interstices with the wall in the presence of a water flow; in the inner membrane cuts, a present, they too being situated at regular intervals, and staggered relatively to the holes of the outer hose. Between two adjacent welds at least an outer bore exists, to which at least one inner cut corresponds.

The said Owners claim all rights in respect of the above invention and will take all legal steps against any Person, Firm or Corporation infringing their rights in the said invention in Yemen Arab Republic.



Two continents' aggressors

THE NAMES of two notorious heads of Middle Eastern countries are back in the news with their armed forces involved in hostile activity against their neighbours. Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini and Libya's Colonel Qadhafi have both sent troops and weapons to neighbouring states on evil and sinister missions, intent on bringing about havoc and destruction in two neighbouring continents. In Chad, the central government has called for help from France, its closest ally; and the prompt response from Paris has obviously thwarted Libya's adventures, at least for the time being.

In the Gulf war, Khomeini, with his fresh offensive on Iraq, has again provided evidence that his country continues to make a mockery of all bids for peace whether coming from Iraq, Islamic countries or the international community.

It seems natural, after all, that since both leaders harbour malicious intentions and hostile attitudes towards their neighbours, that they issue a joint communique with Libya voicing support for the Iranian aggression on Iraq, a sister Arab country, in violation of the Arab League charter and in total contradiction of all principles and international laws.

But unlike Chad, Iraq has been left alone to confront the Iranian onslaught on its territory; and though it has been successfully dealing with the Iranians over the past five years, it is totally unacceptable for the Arab Nation to go on shirking responsibility towards their brothers in need. Only through full backing and practical, not vocal, support can the Iraqis be made to understand that they have to desist from committing further aggression.

Jordan, which has consistently supported Iraq since the start of the Iranian aggression more than five years ago, Tuesday reaffirmed its total pledge to honour its commitment to that sister country in implementation of national commitments. Representatives of the Jordanian people in parliament and the government voiced backing for His Majesty King Hussein's endeavours to extend all possible assistance to the Iraqi people and condemned Iraq's aggression on Iraq. But unless Jordan is joined by other Arab states in a concerted and all-out effort to end the conflict, the two neighbouring Muslim nations will continue to see their resources endlessly and shed more of their peoples' blood.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Unified action required

SINCE the start of the new Iranian offensive on Iraq, Jordan has been following the developments with great concern because such offensive is considered by Jordanians as directed against all Arab countries and Arab people. Our duty as Arabs, is to help the Iraqi people repel this aggression and our responsibility is to join hands with Iraq to safeguard this nation's sovereignty and dignity. Upon launching this offensive, the Iranian leaders announced that they were driving to occupy Iraqi territory. The Iranian leaders who have been in alliance with the enemies of the Arab nation, declare openly their intention for pursuing the war on Iraq and announce they refuse Iraq's bids for peace and for any mediation that would achieve peace between Iraq and Iran. We want all the Arab leaders in Riyadh, Damascus, Cairo and other capitals to realise the proportion of this danger on their nation. We want the Arab leaders to try to end differences among themselves and embark on meaningful action to end aggression because the Iraqis are counting on such differences to pursue their aggression. We want to point out clearly that any Iranian success in the war would be a tragedy for the whole Arab Nation.

Al Dustour: Grave danger

THE United Nations secretary general will hold a special debate Tuesday to discuss the Iranian aggression on Iraqi territory. At the same time contacts are continuing between Arab capitals and Baghdad over the issue and the seven-member Arab committee has been active, trying to work out a formula to bring the war to an end. Despite all this activity, the Arab citizens in and outside Iraq are deeply concerned over the developments in the Gulf, and consider the war as a grave danger to all Arab countries. Of course diplomatic contacts and Security Council meetings are necessary at this particular moment in view of the on-going aggression, but we strongly believe that the key to a solution to the whole issue, lies in the hands of the Arab people. Had there been a true solidarity with Iraq and had the Arabs been more united, the Iraqis would not have even thought of launching a new offensive. As we see our kinsmen in Iraq being continually exposed to Iranian acts of aggression, we feel that we have failed in our duty to come to their aid and help them defend the Arab homeland. The Iraqi people and armed forces have paid dearly and offered great sacrifice in their struggle to defend Arab land, and it is time for the rest of the Arab Nation to take a meaningful action to support their brothers in need. It is also the responsibility of Arab leaders to show unity of action and determination and enlist the help of the international community to end all aggression.

Sawt Al Shaab: The only way

THE heroic struggle of our kinsmen in the occupied Arab lands, the heroic and courageous stand of the Iraqi people in the face of the Iranian aggressors and the continued heroic acts of resistance against the enemy in South Lebanon all bear indications that the Arabs are no more lying idle, but up and ready to defend their lands and rights. The Persians, the Zionists and the isolationists can understand only one language and can be deterred only by force and direct confrontation. There is no other way for the Arabs to safeguard their interests and their rights but to struggle and fight. The Arab people are now up and fighting in Lebanon, in Palestine and in Iraq against the enemies of the Arab Nation. The great sacrifice they make now is the passport for the future. The current struggle in the face of the enemies ushers in a new dawn for the glorious future, despite obstacles and difficulties in the way.

Oil pipelines lessen the strategic importance of Gulf as vital highway

By Gerald F. Seib

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — Remember all those nightmares about the Arabian Gulf?

Just a few years ago, world leaders seriously worried that global war might erupt in the Gulf's azure, shark-infested waters. Nearly half the non-Communist world's oil flowed from the Gulf every day, carried on a thin line of tankers passing out through the perilously narrow Strait of Hormuz. Political turmoil threatened to close the strait, choking off the Western economy and perhaps igniting global conflict.

Today, the nightmares have passed.

In one of the most profound strategic changes in this decade, the Gulf has ceased to be the explosive oil bottleneck that kept presidents lying awake in the 1970s. World reliance on Gulf oil has declined drastically. As a result, only about 15 per cent of the non-Communist world's oil flows through the Strait of Hormuz today, compared with 41 per cent a decade ago.

Much of this dramatic drop comes because oil companies simply are buying more cheap crude elsewhere. But part also is caused by a new network of oil-export pipelines that have been spreading out like a spider's web across the Middle East ever since the Iran-Iraq war began threatening oil shipments. Increasingly, the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea have become the waterways of oil exports, creating a whole new set of strategic — and potentially hot — spots in unfamiliar places like Djibouti and Ethiopia. And even if the Gulf oil comes roaring back in importance in the 1990s, as is widely predicted, the pipelines ensure that nobody will be able to cut off the Gulf's oil by blocking a single point, the Strait of Hormuz.

'Less important'

"It makes the Arabian Gulf as an international highway, and the Strait of Hormuz as an international bottleneck, less important," says James Schlesinger, a former U.S. secretary of defence and secretary of energy.

These far-reaching changes are good news. The new pipelines are like a giant safety valve, spreading around strategic risks and dangers that long were concentrated solely on the Gulf.

"Everybody should be happy that there has been some diversification of oil outlets," says William Quandt, an analyst at the Brookings Institution and a White House national-security aide in the 1970s. "The world is better off as a result."

This doesn't mean the Gulf isn't

still a very important place. After all, countries in the Gulf region sit atop some 56 per cent of the world's proven oil reserves. Pipelines can't move the oil fields, but they can't move the oil fields, notes Anthony Cordesman, a former Pentagon planner who now is a teacher and private analyst.

And Gulf reserves will grow again in importance as smaller reservoirs in the U.S., Europe and the Soviet Union dry up over the next decade. "The danger is that the Gulf may move back into the driver's seat at a time when world oil resources are more limited than at any time in recent history," warns a recent study by the Worldwatch Institute, a privately financed research group in Washington.

Strategic shifts

But there is no denying that significant strategic shifts are taking place for now, as can be seen by looking at a few simple statistics. In 1975, some 17.5 million barrels of oil exports flowed daily through the Strait of Hormuz, and in 1980 the flow was 16.2 million barrels, according to statistics from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries. Today, that level is down to about 6.5 million barrels, and a knowledgeable American oil executive predicts it will fall further, to 4.8 million barrels, by midyear.

Saudi Arabia and Iraq, two of the Gulf's oil giants, are the big players in the new pipeline game. The Saudis have built a pipeline that can carry 1.9 million barrels daily from the Gulf across the Arabian peninsula to the Red Sea and are expanding the line's capacity to nearly three million barrels.

Iraq, forced to turn to pipelines after Iran shut down its Gulf shipping terminals in 1979, has tapped into the new Saudi line and also is planning a parallel line of its own across Saudi territory to the Red Sea to carry out another 1.6 million barrels daily. In addition, Iraq has a line across Turkey to the Mediterranean that is being enlarged to carry 1.5 million barrels, as well as a dormant line to the Mediterranean through Syria with a capacity of 1.4 million barrels.

Now Iran has gotten pipe dreams as well. It is building a line to carry oil from its fields deep inside the Gulf to new terminals halfway out. U.S. government and oil-company officials think this line is a first step toward a big pipeline that eventually will bypass the Strait of Hormuz and carry Iranian crude all the way outside the Gulf, to Bandar Jask on the Arabian Sea. The other, smaller Gulf states have considered similar lines out to the Arabian Sea.

All told, the capacity of pipelines carrying crude away from the Gulf has grown to 4.3 million barrels daily from 2.5 million barrels in 1980. Capacity should grow further, to some seven million barrels daily by 1987 if Iraq's new line to the Red Sea is completed.

While these pipelines are making the Strait of Hormuz dim as a global flashpoint, the shift in export outlets also is creating a whole new set of potential hot spots for strategic thinkers to mull over. These are the places that could be the datelines in newspaper stories about oil crises of the 1990s.

First of all, the changing export scene "increases the strategic importance of the Red Sea," says Charles Efinger, an analyst at Georgetown University's Centre for Strategic and International Studies. The Red Sea is growing both as an oil waterway and as a promising source of oil deposits of its own. That means the U.S. must worry more about the stability of familiar Red Sea states like Egypt, as well as Djibouti, the Sudan and Ethiopia.

Egypt watches over the Suez Canal and a pipeline linking the Red Sea and the Mediterranean, oil moving north from Saudi Arabia's Red Sea port at Yanbu must pass through one or the other on its way to Western Europe.

Far to the south, Djibouti, a tiny nation that got its independence from France just six years ago, watches over the narrow Bab Al Mandeb strait at the southern exit of the Red Sea. Tankers that carry oil to the Far East or that are too big to go through the Suez Canal pass by Djibouti to exit from the Red Sea to the south. This country with a population of just 316,000 has an unemployment rate estimated at 80 per cent and boasts few natural resources and relies mostly on French aid.

Ethiopia, which has strong ties to the Soviet Union, watches over some 500 miles of Red Sea coastline, giving the Soviets access to the Red Sea area. The Sudan also watches a long stretch of Red Sea coast; it has long been friendly to the U.S., but the leaders of a coup last year have had trouble coming to grips with economic problems and have flirted with Libya.

In addition to these Red Sea countries, the new pipelines enhance the importance of Turkey, a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation state that carries Iraqi oil to the Mediterranean for shipment to Europe. The pipeline across Turkey amounts to "a NATO supply pipeline" that could be a prime target of the Soviet military in an East-West conflict, says Hans-Heino Kopetz, a consultant at London's International Institute for Strategic Studies.

In addition to the strategic changes, the pipelines introduce some significant new political forces to the Gulf region as well. For example, Iraq, long one of the Middle East's most radical states now has a powerful incentive to get along with the conservative governments of Saudi Arabia and Turkey, which transport its oil.

"It certainly constrains (Iraq's) behaviour," says Christine Helms, a scholar at the Brookings Institution who has written about both Iraq and the new pipelines. She notes, however, that Iraq's planned new pipeline across Saudi Arabia to the Red Sea also could prove troublesome for the Saudis, who will have to worry about recommitments from the tough-minded Iraqis if there are disputes about transit fees or export levels.

For that reason, some oil executives suspect the Saudis may yet change their minds about letting Iraq finish the new line, which Iraq expects to start building this year. In addition, the need for stability along the Red Sea gives Saudi Arabia new incentive to aid Egypt, to which it has been cool and distant, as well as a new stake in an Arab-Israeli peace process. Israel stares down at the Red Sea from the north, giving the Saudis reason to want an Arab-Israeli agreement to maintain calm in the area.

Of course, there are limits to how much any new transportation network can reduce the vulnerability of the Gulf. Even if all the contemplated pipelines are completed, they won't be able to carry nearly all the Gulf's exports if production returns to the levels of the 1970s.

Also, the mining of the Red Sea near Egypt in 1984, probably by Libyans, illustrated that the Red Sea may be as susceptible to violence as is the Gulf. Moreover, pipelines can be sabotaged.

But most experts think that damage to pipelines is relatively fast and easy to fix. And indeed, the broadest lesson to be drawn from the changes in the Gulf's strategic position may be that oil markets can find solutions to dangerous situations more easily than once predicted. Nobody would have dared to forecast in the 1970s that there could be a war in the Gulf, a shutdown of Iraq's Gulf oil terminals and attacks on oil tankers and facilities — and that oil prices and the Gulf's strategic importance would decline in spite of it all. Yet that is exactly what has happened.

"What I think we've learned," says the Brookings Institution's Mr. Quandt, "is that oil systems and even social systems are more resilient to local disturbances than we thought." — The Wall Street Journal.

LETTERS

Internal affairs

To the Editor:

WITH reference to Mr. Emanuel Contreras' letter to the editor dated Feb. 12, I agree with all his points clarifying in particular the real image and truth behind the Philippines on matters of democracy and I was also happy and delighted the way he interpreted the true situation.

Citing previous T.V. documentary films and news regarding the Philippines, I think some are too exaggerated and very embarrassing for us as citizens. Never have I seen a good image, views of our country's natural beauty, resources and developments. Instead all were focused on what we call "Squatters Areas." Thanks also for the last paragraph of Mr. Contreras' article which implies the truth that our government keeps on implementing these programmes. Giving those details you can now picture in your mind what really is our life. You may erase some of your doubts, as there are also others who are decent and middle class citizens (more of this category) who are not the same as the type illustrated having scarcity of daily resources. The poor people and illiterates are dominated by worldwide inflation but they are taken care of by the Social Welfare Administration and other charitable agencies. But it is also true that there are some people dependent on charitable institutions who are abusing it and they do not strive to get ahead. Instead they add more pressure by staying in the crowded city whilst on the outskirts of the city, fertile lands and a promise of homes, which are provided by our government are waiting for them.

Politically speaking, I am not too much involved. I am just a plain citizen, voicing what is in my mind. Whoever runs our government, just the same there will be no change unless the world economy will improve. To my knowledge, Marcos is one of the best presidents our republic has had and if there is doubt that he has reserves outside our country, this is natural in politics. For sure the rest of his life if elected again, he would provide beneficial interest for the next generation to come as he has done from the start of his administration. Unlike other leaders who may come in the future, first of all they will settle their personal interests, the party affiliation and other interests. Well, I'll just say it once more to critics of our president — stay away from Philippines' internal affairs.

Mrs. Remedios Atienza
Amman.

Promoting tourism

To the Editor:

With regard to the commendable efforts of Mr. Nasri Atallah, Director General of the Tourism Authority, and his staff, in promoting Jordan as a favourable tourist attraction, may I enlighten Mr. Nasri on something the foreign community has known for many years.

Namely... the astronomically high air fares charged by Alia, from, for example England for the individual average tourist. Unless these average tourists are in the high income group, they automatically give Jordan a miss, and opt for a holiday in Israel, thereby receiving the same, if not better facilities, i.e. sun, sand, sea, tourist sites, good hotels, at a fraction of the price for the same things in Jordan.

A seat on a recognised airline to Israel is £145 (see any British newspaper) in comparison to Alia's £600.

Therefore, a family of four would need to spend £2,400, just to get here! Need I say more.

If Alia reduced their air fares, Jordan would have more tourists than it knew what to do with.

Shella Hadad
Amman.

Rifai urges Arab and Islamic support for Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

not to help the Iraqi people repel aggression. Unless peace and security is established in the Gulf, the region and the whole Arab area will not enjoy stability, Mr. Thwib said. He suggested issuing a statement calling on Iran to respect resolutions by the United Nations, the Organisation of Islamic Conference and the Non-Aligned Movement to stop the war and making peace. He also called on Arab countries to implement the Arab League defence pact which commits all Arabs to come to the help of any Arab country exposed to external aggression.

Another deputy Salman Al Qudahi said that Iran has been ignoring all calls of peace and has been trying to impose hegemony on Arab countries in cooperation with Israel, which continues to supply it with weapons. Had it not been for Iraq's heroic stands and steadfastness, the Iranian aggression would have extended to many Arab countries, Mr. Qudahi continued. He called on Arab countries to fulfil their commitment and implement the Arab League defence pact to repel the aggression. He said that statements of condemnation are not enough and all Arabs should now extend genuine help and actual support.

Daoud Mohammad Suleiman said that most Arab countries have done very little in the face of continued Israeli aggression and occupation of Arab territory and now some Arab countries are doing nothing to help Iraq repel Iran's aggression. He said that unified Arab action to face Iranian aggression and Israel's atrocities is bound to ensure peace and stability for the Arab Nation.

Mr. Ismail Hijazi called on the meeting to issue an appeal to Arab countries to stand by Iraq and to undertake meaningful action to stop the war.

Mr. Nazih Ammarin, who also addressed the session, said that Iraq has never shirked its responsibility and has always stood by Arab countries in their war against Israel. The Iraqis have fought alongside Arab armies in Palestine, Sinai and the Golan Heights, and it is time for the Arabs to

help the Iraqis defeat the enemies of the Arab Nation, Mr. Ammarin said.

Fayez confers with Iraqi parliamentarian

Before the session the House Speaker Akel Al Fayez conferred with Mr. Sa'ad Qasem Hammoudi, chairman of the Foreign and Arab Affairs Committee of the Iraqi National Assembly.

They discussed the situation in the Gulf and parliamentary issues. At the end of the meeting, Mr. Hammoudi said that Iraq appreciates Jordan's support for the Iraqi people. At the meeting with Mr. Fayez he said that discussion centred on issues of concern to parliaments in both countries. Mr. Hammoudi called on the Arab Nation to rally behind Iraq and repel aggression. The March 10 meeting of the Inter-Arab Parliamentary Union in Amman will be another chance for Arab parliaments to take a practical step towards confronting the Iranian aggression on Iraq, Mr. Hammoudi said.

On the situation at the battlefield, Mr. Hammoudi said that the Iraqi armed forces will soon defeat the invading Iranian forces. Speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly Sa'adoun Hammadi earlier sent a message to Mr. Fayez informing him of the new Iranian offensive and calling for concerted Arab efforts to repel aggression.

Following the Parliament session, Speaker Fayez sent a cable to King Hussein voicing the House's pride in the King's leadership.

He said that the Jordanian people support every effort undertaken by their monarch to extend help and support for the Iraqi people. The representatives of the Jordanian people in parliament have condemned Iran's aggression on Iraq and have renewed determination and resolve to rally behind their monarch in his efforts to help the Iraqi people and armed forces in aborting Iran's expansionist designs in Arab Homeland, Mr. Fayez said.

Mr. Fayez sent another cable to President Saddam Hussein in which he voiced the House's pride and appreciation of the Iraqi people and armed forces' sacrifice and

heroic stand.

"The Lower House of Parliament in Jordan takes pride in your heroic struggle and the great sacrifice made by the Iraqi people and armed forces that remind of the great feats of Arab and Muslim leaders throughout history," Mr. Fayez said in his cable to President Hussein.

He said the Lower House strongly condemns Iran's intransigence and continued acts of aggression on the Arab Nation. He said: "Our duty as Arabs makes it incumbent on us to implement the Arab League defence pact and full our commitment in support of the Iraqi people."

Government condemns Libyan backing for Iran

Coinciding with Parliament's session, the Jordanian government issued a statement strongly condemning Libya for its support for Iran in its aggression on Iraqi territory. A statement issued by Acting Foreign Minister Hazem Nuseibeh said that the Jordanian government was deeply shocked by the Iranian-Libyan joint communique two days ago which voiced Libya's support for Iran's aggression on Iraq, Jordan and all Arab people who take pride in Iraq's sacrifice and heroic stand in defence of the Arab Homeland against the Iranian onslaught express total condemnation of the Libyan stand, the statement said.

It said that the Jordanian people will continue to support the Iraqi people and armed forces in their continued struggle to repel aggression.

The Jordanian Jurists' Society and the Jordanian Economists' Society both issued statements voicing condemnation of Iran's aggression and expressing support for the Iraqi people. The statements called on Arab leaders to join ranks and end their divisions and disputes so that they can defeat aggression. The Jordanian Economists Society sent a cable to President Saddam Hussein paying tribute to the Iraqi people and armed forces for their defence of the nation and called on the Arab countries to implement the Arab League's joint defence pact.

Iraq reports beating back Iranian thrust

(Continued from page 1)

their talks. The ministers previously visited Syria, Iran's main Arab ally, as part of a diplomatic drive to try to end the flare-up in the 5½-year war.

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait were among seven Arab states which asked for a Security Council meeting but Iran, which accuses the council of bias towards Iraq, has already served notice it will probably ignore the meeting's outcome. The council was to meet late Tuesday.

"The Iranian nation will reject any position taken by the U.N. Security Council which avoids condemnation of the aggressor or its direct or indirect supporters," Prime Minister Muir-Hossein

Mousavi said.

"Otherwise," he added, "the only solution to end the war and eliminate tension in the region will be military action."

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said on Monday in a note to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar that Iran would listen to "suggestions for an equitable end" to the conflict, but that the council should explicitly brand Iraq as the "aggressor" and condemn its "frequent use" of chemical weapons.

Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister Youssef Wali, who arrived in Baghdad on Monday with a message of support for Iraq, told the daily Al Jumhuriya that Gulf states should view the Iranian off-

ensive as a "direct threat to them which must be taken seriously." Warning them against "falling into the trap of the Iranian rulers' political manoeuvres," Mr. Wali said the offensive was aimed at the whole Gulf region.

The TASS news agency said Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze held talks Monday with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz and warned Iran and Iraq not to allow the West to exploit Gulf tension by continuing their fierce war.

"Conviction was expressed that continuation of the Iranian-Iraqi war results only in heavy casualties and destruction for the peoples of the two countries," TASS said.

Mubarak expects Jordan-PLO accord on 242

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Arafat had separate meetings on Tuesday with Dr. Baz and Nabli Al Arabi, chief legal officer in the Foreign Ministry. Egypt's semi-official Al Ahram daily quoted Mr. Arafat as saying the PLO was ready to accept Resolution 242 on condition that it also stipulated Palestinian rights.

Mr. Arafat also said the PLO would join an international conference provided it was effective and was backed by the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, including the Soviet Union and the U.S.

"This is not for love of the Soviet Union, but simply because it is illogical that the U.S. should bring the case and judge it at the same time," Al Ahram quoted him as saying.

In Luxembourg, diplomats told Reuters Egypt has formally asked a sceptical European Community (EC) to back Mr. Mubarak's call for Middle East peace mission by establishing a "contact group" of independent European personalities.

They said the call was made Monday night by Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid who met the 12 EC foreign ministers for political discussions after a regular meeting on EC-Egypt economic relations. The diplomats said the EC had

promised to study the request at the foreign ministers next regular meeting on foreign policy issues, in The Hague in a week's time.

The call was first outlined by Mr. Mubarak in a speech last month at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg but the diplomats said the EC ministers pressed for a fuller explanation.

They said that Mr. Abdul Meguid told them he wanted the mission to talk to all parties involved in the conflict, including Israel and the PLO.

The Egyptian minister said the idea had the support of Mr. Arafat and the mission would try to formulate the new proposals aimed at breaking the impasse in Middle East peace-making, they added.

In an interview with Reuters later on Tuesday, Mr. Arafat rejected suggestions that he had differences with King Hussein but said he was at odds with United States proposals.

"There are no differences whatsoever between us and King Hussein. The difference is between us and the American administration," he told Reuters.

The King was making great efforts to find a formula that would permit progress towards an international Middle East peace conference, Mr. Arafat added.

The PLO chairman also said Egypt and Jordan were mediating with the U.S. to find a formula

Washington could accept.

But so far, "the United States has offered a formula which is not acceptable to the PLO," he added without elaborating.

Mr. Arafat said talks between the PLO and Jordan would continue, and Palestinian sources said he dispatched his political adviser Hassan to Amman on Tuesday.

Mr. Arafat acknowledged there were discrepancies between PLO and Jordanian positions but said such things happened "between brothers on the same path."

Mr. Arafat flew on Tuesday to the Mediterranean city of Alezandria on an unexplained mission but said he would meet Mr. Mubarak again. He said his talks were since last Thursday had achieved positive results.

Sources close to the talks were quoted as saying by Reuters that three formulas under discussion covered several aspects of the Palestinian issue with slightly different wording.

They said the formulas included acceptance of all United Nations resolutions on the Palestinian question, not just 242 and 338. Also included were guarantees for Palestinian self-determination, not only in words but also "on the ground," and commitment to an international Middle East peace conference which the PLO and Israel would attend on an equal footing, the sources said.

Sudan's future — dustbowl or breadbasket?

By Jonathan Wright
Reuters

KHARTOUM — Gloomy predictions of continuing ecological disaster have all but supplanted hopes of just a decade ago that Sudan could become a granary.

As the fight goes on to save people from Africa's worst drought this century, the successors of agricultural experts who came to try and make the breadbasket dream a reality are reassessing estimates of future productivity.

In the mid-1970s this was the last frontier of the Middle East, a land of promise for pioneer businessmen to invest the oil wealth of the Gulf in the rain-fed prairies of Africa's largest country.

The textbooks said the Sudanese cultivated only 17 million acres of a possible 200 million. Wheat production would grow tenfold between 1975 and 1985, officials of the time predicted.

"They don't talk about the granary idea any more... and personally I'm very doubtful about the figure of 200 million acres," Fouad Ibrahim, desertification expert at West Germany's Bayreuth University, told Reuters.

Mustafa Tolba, director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), said that with present farming practices Sudan's next drought would be even more disastrous than the one which ravaged the landscape in 1982-84.

Farmers destroyed two million acres a year by intensive and mechanised methods which ignored basic principles of crop rotation and fallow periods, he said.

This is a form of sabotage. After five or six years this land loses its productivity and the farmers move on to new areas or expand the area they plant."

Wholesale destruction of trees for fuel also speeds the spread of the desert in Sudan and neighbouring regions. By the turn of the century, UNEP predicts, Khartoum will have to collect its firewood from 1,000 kilometres away.

Ibrahim, probably the world authority on the ecology of north Africa in the far west, said Sudan's potential was still large but not as easily exploitable as optimists had hoped.

Dams built for irrigation are siphoning up quicker than expected, shortages of fuel and spare parts restrict irrigation by diesel pump and the clay soils of the well-watered south deteriorate rapidly once farmers clear the original vegetation.

Khassim Al Gubri Dam in the

east, for example, held 1.2 billion cubic metres of water when it opened in 1962. Silt has reduced its capacity to 500 million and "in another 15 to 20 years you can forget about it," Ibrahim said.

In Darfur, cultivation of millet in marginal areas of uncertain rainfall, coupled with overgrazing, has brought sand dunes to places where they were once unknown, he added.

Another school of thought, represented by the eminent Egyptian-born geologist Farouk Al Baz, dismisses the "man-made" theory of desertification, blaming instead long-term climatic cycles beyond human control or full understanding.

But even Baz recognises that the cycle of wet and dry phases places considerable restraints on Sudan's agricultural potential. He says it should look instead to exploit mineral wealth in the unhabited deserts of the far north-west.

Sid Ahmed Tayfour, minister of finance and formerly a senior official in the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), still maintains the ideas of the 1970s were feasible and the constraints today largely financial.

Sudan may have missed its big chance because the capital surplus generated in the Gulf states by high oil prices have now evaporated, he told Reuters.

He said the investors of the years of promise should have put their money in rain-fed agriculture and livestock ranching instead of poultry farming and the old irrigated areas.

A corollary of the outdated production forecasts was the belief that the population of Sudan, now 22 million, is way below the capacity of a country of 2.6 million square kilometres.

A drive from the eastern town of Gedaref suggests that theory may still be valid. Tracks run for miles through fields of grain with tiny hamlets at long intervals.

Aziz Slach, representative in Sudan of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), said resettling people in underexploited regions would be a good long-term solution to Sudan's problems.

But his government is neither strong enough nor ideologically disposed to enforce a compulsory resettlement policy of the type Ethiopia has attempted for people from its overpopulated north.

"In Sudan the people would have to be consulted. If they agreed, then fine, but if you move people by decree, it tends to be counterproductive," said Mustafa Tolba.

Probing the cell: Doctors link genes and predisposition to heart disease

By Jerry E. Bishop

NEW YORK — Experience told the doctors the two patients shouldn't have heart disease. They were young women, just 31 and 29 years of age, and their overall cholesterol levels were normal. Yet there in the black and white of the X-rays was clear evidence that the coronary arteries of both patients — two sisters — were almost totally clogged.

In ensuing months the case was pursued not only by the sisters' doctors in Detroit but by scientists at a half-dozen laboratories around the U.S. and Canada. Using techniques that didn't exist as recently as five years ago, they finally tracked the problem to the genes. Specifically, to a gene on the tip of the 11th pair of chromosomes in each cell of the two sisters' bodies.

The gene normally makes a protein that enables blood to remove used cholesterol from tissues and carry it off for disposal. But in both sisters, the gene wasn't working. Their blood never picked up the cholesterol — and thus didn't show an elevated reading. Meanwhile, the used cholesterol piled up day after day in the tissues and arteries.

Jan Breslow, a physician and biochemist at Rockefeller University in New York, was one of those who helped solve the mystery. "It's pretty awesome," he says, "to think of a single gene abnormality that can accelerate the age for a heart attack by 50 years."

On the scent

But such are the discoveries that are rapidly uncovering the genetic bases of some atherosclerosis, the artery clogging that underlines most heart attacks and leads each year to the deaths of 500,000 Americans. By finding genes involved in the process and what they do, says Dr. Breslow, "we are beginning to understand the body mechanisms that lead to coronary heart disease."

He cites the paradox that someone like Winston Churchill could indulge in rich foods, tobacco and physical inactivity and live past 90, while one such as tennis star Arthur Ashe could avoid smoking, stay thin and be very active, yet suffer two heart attacks before 40.

"The Churchill of the world we presume have a genetic protection against heart attack, whereas the Arthur Ashes have a genetic susceptibility," Dr. Breslow says. The 80 per cent or more of people who fall between these extremes can improve or hurt their odds significantly (though to varying degrees) through such things as diet.

Of the estimated 4.6 million Americans with coronary artery disease, researchers say a majority probably are afflicted by a predisposing genetic disorder. But there is by no means only one such disorder. With their new biological tools scientists are locating a whole group of genes, each of which, if defective, can disrupt the body's normal use of cholesterol.

The heart-attack diet

The growing genetic insight is

already affecting efforts to bring the U.S. heart-disease epidemic under control. By revealing some of the processes involved, it is erasing any doubt that the normal American diet, laden as it is with fats, is a major culprit in the large majority of heart attacks. Thus, the geneticists' discoveries are likely to add impetus to the existing evolution of the U.S. diet.

The discoveries also may affect physical exams, which typically measure just the overall level of blood cholesterol. As more is learned about the way atherosclerosis develops, more tests are being done for the cholesterol units known as HDL and LDL. And new blood tests are on the horizon that could reveal, at birth, who is in danger of an early heart attack, permitting measures to be taken to reduce the risk.

The genes involved in heart disease are those responsible for the body's use and disposal of fats. They evolved in distant ancestors who, it is believed, ate low-fat, high-fiber diets but for various reasons usually lived short lives. It wasn't until the comforts of the 20th century that these genes were challenged by a population that got 40 per cent to 45 per cent of its calories from fats and routinely lived long enough to suffer the consequences.

The LDL shuttle

In a manner of speaking, the genes had evolved to solve the problem that oil and water don't mix. The bloodstream must take dietary fat through the liver, where it is processed into usable forms such as cholesterol, and then throughout the body for making cell walls, hormones and other vital substances. As such substances wear out, the bloodstream also has to scavenge their used cholesterol and haul it back to the liver for disposal.

But because fats don't dissolve in blood (which is mostly water), the cholesterol has to be wrapped in a protein that does. And there must be several kinds of these proteins; if the same one were involved at all stages, the receiving cells couldn't tell the difference between, say, fresh cholesterol and used cholesterol. So at each stage, the cholesterol is repackaged in a different protein, like mail being handed off to a new Pony Express rider.

Scientists have identified at least eight such proteins, and they are making rapid progress in pinpointing the genes that form the blueprints for them. Their work is leading to new insights into how atherosclerosis develops.

This is why the two sisters with the puzzling cases occupy a niche in medical annals. As the older sister's doctor, Detroit internist Robert Norum, recalls, her artery disease wasn't the only unusual finding. His patient's eyelids, neck and trunk also were dotted with small yellowish bumps.

"She mentioned that her younger sister also had these yellowish plaques and had heart trouble when her first child was born," Dr. Norum says. He also headed a genetics laboratory, at Henry Ford Hospital, and he

knew that such yellow plaques are seen in a rare hereditary affliction called Tangier disease. In that disorder, the plaques result from deposits of cholesterol in the skin, but Tangier patients don't have any unusual incidence of atherosclerosis.

"My partner suggested we check the lipids (fats) in the blood," Dr. Norum says. Initial tests in Detroit, and later definitive ones at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, revealed a surprise: The woman was missing a protein whose job it is to extract used cholesterol from the cells and take it to the liver for disposal.

Without this protein, called apo A-1, the used cholesterol was simply collecting in the woman's tissues. When the younger sister was found also to be missing the apo A-1 protein, "we had a pretty good idea this was a genetic disease," Dr. Norum says.

In the case of every gene except those that determine sex, an individual inherits two copies, one from the father and one from the mother. When the copy from one parent is defective, its effects often are partly offset by the good copy from the other parent. But sometimes both copies passed on to the child have the same defect. The two sisters, it appeared, might each have inherited two copies of a defective apo A-1 gene.

This thesis was bolstered when doctors checked the blood of relatives and found that both of their parents had about half the normal level of apo A-1 protein, indicating they each carried one defective copy of the gene. But what was the defect?

Probing deeper

Shortly after Dr. Norum and 10 other scientists who studied the sisters had published their first report, in the New England Journal of Medicine, Dr. Breslow at the Rockefeller called and said he had the probes to examine the genes," Dr. Norum says. "So I sent him some white blood cells," from the sisters and their relatives.

Dr. Breslow's laboratory is a collection of small rooms jammed with glassware and instruments near the East River in Manhattan. Here he and a half-dozen other young scientists are "mapping" the genes for the proteins that cart cholesterol around the body. Employing the methods being used in a far-ranging scientific project to locate all human genes on the chromosomes, they use probes of synthetic DNA to check for revealing variations known as "mutations."

From studying the cells of healthy people, Dr. Breslow's group already knew the apo A-1 gene was on chromosome pair No. 11, and they had a good idea where. They also knew that close by were two other genes that produced proteins involved in cholesterol transport. When they compared chromosome 11 from the sisters with a normal chromosome 11, they found the defect. A piece of the apo A-1 gene had traded places with a piece of one of the other nearby genes. The partial rearrangement inactivated both

genes.

The sisters' case made clear that inheriting two defective copies of the gene for this protein could lead to severe and rapid atherosclerosis. Now the researchers are hoping to learn whether a single defective copy could lead to artery disease too, but at a slower rate. (The sisters' parents, now in their 50s, haven't shown any outward symptoms of the problem, Dr. Norum says.)

In any case, discovery of the apo A-1 defect has broad implications for prevention of atherosclerosis. When the protein extracts used cholesterol from a cell, it wraps it up in a tightly packed molecular unit dubbed high-density lipoprotein, or HDL. People are known to be statistically more likely to develop heart disease if HDL accounts for a low percentage of their cholesterol. The sisters' case showed that a dangerously low HDL level could be due to a defective gene.

About 5 per cent of Americans, or almost 12 million people, have significantly low levels of HDL. Dr. Breslow speculates that one-fifth of these people might have one or another defect in the apo A-1 gene.

Liver pills

A hint of the usefulness of such discoveries can be seen in some early research that brought a Nobel Prize last fall to two University of Texas scientists, Michael Brown and Joseph Goldstein, who took a close look at a family that suffered a mysterious form of early and severe heart disease. These patients' bloodstreams contained very high amounts of another type of cholesterol-protein package, called low-density lipoprotein, or LDL.

Dr. Brown and Goldstein discovered that these patients' liver cells were unable to extract LDL cholesterol from the blood. And they traced this problem to a gene defect that kept the liver cells from making a receptor protein they needed to "recognize" the LDL.

Although there may be other genetic defects that also lead to high LDL levels, this one now is believed to afflict about one person in 500. Its discovery confirmed the link between atherosclerosis and high levels of LDL cholesterol. Today, heart specialists and many general-practice physicians, instead of just measuring their patients' total cholesterol, increasingly are checking what part of it is HDL and what part is LDL.

Scientists like Dr. Breslow suggest that the genetic research on atherosclerosis might pay off another way. Most of it so far has focused on finding gene defects that render individuals more susceptible to heart disease, but he notes that other genes may confer special protection, as in a person like Churchill. "Given the fact that such immunity, like longevity generally, often runs in families," Dr. Breslow says, "there is surely some genetic component at work. One would very much like some clue to what it might be" — The Wall Street Journal



AWARDED: Director Ingmar Bergman, who made world-famous films starring Liv Ullmann, feels the Norwegian actress is wasting her talent. Since 1980 she has been working in a new role far removed from Hollywood glamour as a special envoy for UNICEF, the United Nations international children's emergency fund. The German United Nations Association has awarded her its Dag Hammarskjöld medal in recognition of her work in the Third World. Her commitment to the cause of children in the Third World, of refugees and people stricken by famine, began when she and other celebrities tried to take a convoy of food and medical supplies to Cambodia but were turned back at the border. She was so deeply impressed by what she saw that she decided to keep up her work for the underprivileged. She became a special envoy for UNICEF, visiting projects all over the world. In the industrialised countries she missed no opportunity of telling people what life was like in the Third World, and she raised funds to relieve the hardship; she went begging for UNICEF. The award with which the 48-year-old actress has been presented in recognition of her committed work as an ambassador of goodwill is named after the U.N. secretary-general who died in a plane crash in 1961. It is made every other year to people who have made outstanding contributions toward solving the world's problems. Previous winners have included Peter Ustinov and Danny Kaye. The speech in her honour was made by SPD leader Willy Brandt, chairman of the Brandt commission on North-South affairs, who said Liv Ullmann's commitment helped to ease at least a little injustice in the world (Photo De/Diipa).

IUD birth control devices likely to remain in widespread use

By Michael Conlon

CHICAGO — The intrauterine device (IUD), one of the most popular forms of birth control, has been all but driven from the U.S. market by lawsuits and bad publicity but seems likely to remain in widespread use elsewhere.

After sterilization, which an estimated 136 million men and women have chosen, population experts say the IUD remains the most popular form of "artificial" birth control, especially in developing countries.

About 70 million women worldwide — 51 million of them in China — use IUDs, according to the Population Crisis Committee, a non-profit organization that promotes voluntary family planning.

When Chicago-based G.D. Searle Company discontinued the sale of two forms of copper IUD in the United States recently, it cited the high cost of continuing lawsuits from women who claimed they had been injured by the devices.

"It (Searle's action) has severely limited the choices open to American women," a spokeswoman for the Planned Parenthood Group said.

An estimated one million women were using Searle devices. IUDs made by Searle have been the subject of 775 lawsuits, of which 305 were still pending, the company said. Most of the other suits were settled out of court.

But the company says it is confident the devices — the most widely sold IUDs in the United States — were safe and it plans to continue marketing them outside the country.

"It's a very unfortunate thing," Forrest Greenleaf, a consultant to the Population Council, a non-profit research and advisory organization, said of the Searle decision.

"When used according to instructions, the copper-bearing IUD is a safe and effective method of reversible contraception. People in other countries are not going to understand that this was a business decision," he said.

"They (Searle) judged the cost of lawsuits in the litigious U.S. environment. It shouldn't be confused with anything relating to regulatory status," he added.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) still approves the use of the Searle IUDs. Johnson and Johnson stopped selling its lippes loop IUD last September after marketing it for 20 years. At least 200 lawsuits were pending at the time.

The withdrawal of the copper IUDs from the U.S. market leaves a device called the progestin, which releases hormones in a similar way to a birth control pill, as the only IUD generally available

to American women. But the device has had only limited sales because it must be changed annually, against once every three years for copper devices, and is dearer, according to Planned Parenthood.

Greenleaf said the Population Council, which helped develop one of the copper devices sold by Searle, would continue to hold the licence for it and a third similar IUD and try to find other manufacturers.

"I don't believe in the long run it will have any significant effect," he said of Searle's decision. "There will be some confusion worldwide. It's important that people all over the world do understand that this is a suitable method."

IUDs are plastic or metal devices, often in the shape of a loop or coil, which provide continuous contraception when placed in the uterus by releasing hormones or metals that interfere with conception.

They are recommended for women who have had one or more children but who do not want sterilisation. IUDs are considered less suitable for younger, childless women.

A common complaint is that IUDs can cause pelvic inflammatory disease, which increases the risk of sterility and can lead to tubal pregnancies.

Searle's copper IUDs came into wide use in the U.S. after an earlier device, the Dalkon Shield, was pulled from the market more than a decade ago. The Dalkon device was linked to at least 18 deaths and many injuries among women who became pregnant while using it and suffered spontaneous abortions.

The A.H. Robins Company, maker of the Dalkon Shield, filed a bankruptcy petition last August after being sued by more than 12,000 women for what they said were problems related to the shield during the years it was in use.

Family planning experts are concerned that the IUD, which they consider a useful and safe contraceptive device, is now virtually unavailable in the United States.

Of perhaps greater concern to experts in the field is the shrinking level of research on birth control and reproduction.

One recent survey found that \$167 million was spent on basic and applied research in the field worldwide in 1983, 21 per cent less in real terms than was spent in 1979.

The Population Council's Greenleaf attributes the drop to tougher regulatory standards and competing markets which make other kinds of research more profitable.

"I really believe significant funding should be placed toward finding a male contraceptive," he said.

First Spanish press ombudsman hunts mistakes, helps readers

By Francois Raltberger

MADRID — It was a tough start for the first ombudsman in the Spanish press, appointed by the leading daily El Pais to carry out post-mortems on mistakes in order to guarantee the highest editorial standards.

The very week he launched on his lone ranger task, Ismael Lopez Munoz had to investigate his own boss, editor Juan Luis Cebrian, for a touchy mistake in an interview with the prime minister.

Words dropped in the published transcript of Cebrian's interview made Premier Felipe Gonzalez claim to be commander-in-chief of the armed forces, a title held by the king.

Lopez Munoz, in the first of his weekly columns, traced the mistake to a secretary and also blamed a deputy editor for failing to spot it.

"I don't think they liked that very much, but the issue was important," he told Reuters.

The fact that a deputy editor was the ombudsman's first target was positive, Cebrian said. "It helped clear any doubts that the ombudsman was to be used to watch and possibly punish journalists," he said.

Cebrian saw the ombudsman as a new challenge for El Pais, which was set up in 1976, six months after dictator Francisco Franco died. It rapidly became Spain's leading daily with a circulation of 350,000 that nearly doubles on Sundays.

While press ombudsmen are common in the United States and Australia, they are unknown in most parts of Europe.

"It is above all a service to readers. We must answer to them for the quality of the information we provide," Cebrian said. He said rectifying errors was not enough

and readers had to be told how mistakes came about.

Lopez Munoz, a journalist for 23 years and a former Moscow correspondent, said he wanted to attack the popular idea, deeply rooted in Latin countries, that newspapers print lies.

Since he was appointed last November, he has picked on even his closest friends in the newspaper.

He spotted a demonstration reported a day before it actually took place and a story that discounted a cut in petrol prices but was followed the next day by an announcement that prices had gone down.

Acting on readers' letters he investigated why sandwiches wrapped up in copies of El Pais became ink-stained and why value added tax caused the price of El Pais to rise even in the Canary Islands which are exempted from the tax.

He denounced the paper for a death notice was turned down for lack of space and for another that turned out to be a joke. He also reported his own mistakes and asked in a column: "Who watches the watchman?" Readers, he answered.

Cebrian said he was aware ombudsmen had caused tension in foreign newspapers and Lopez Munoz said colleagues watched him warily whenever he stepped into the newsroom, fearing they might be his next target.

Some resented their mistakes being exposed. "Some of them no longer speak to me," he said. But journalists whose names were printed in his columns told Reuters his work was useful as a constant reminder to keep high standards.

Under proposed statutes, the El Pais ombudsman will have full guarantees of independence and irremovability and will go back to his original job at the end of a one-year renewable term.

Ben Kingsley: Master of disguise

By Paul Majendie

LONDON — From Gandhi to Othello via Apache warrior and oil sheik, Ben Kingsley revels in his versatility.

For the actor best known for his Oscar-winning portrayal of Mahatma Gandhi, Kingsley relishes the challenge of disguise. The quintessential chameleon, he immerses himself in every role, totally transforming himself into each new character.

As proof of that adaptability, he is at present playing in repertory at London's Barbican Centre to packed houses.

His two roles could not be more different. One week, he plays Othello, the jealousy-racked Moor driven to murder. The next, he is an old Apache warrior reflecting on past injustices in "Moloch" by American author Bernard Malamud.

Kingsley's two latest film roles also prove he is no danger of ever being typecast or stuck in a rut. He plays an oil sheik in "Harem" and in "Turtle Diary" a mild-mannered Englishman who plots with Glenda Jackson to release from captivity all the truties in London Zoo.

Reflecting on such a varied output, he said: "Acting is my great love and you have to face certain tests and challenges. I am fortunate to have several different diets to feed this greedy craft of mine."

But the 42-year-old Kingsley, a quiet and intense figure with piercing brown eyes, agrees there has been a link between his most successful roles like Othello and Gandhi.

"There is a definite thread. Obsessives do make wonderful characters and are riveting for an audience," he told Reuters in an



Ben Kingsley and Candice Bergen in Richard Attenborough's 'Gandhi' (File photo)

interview. He switches happily from stage to cinema and after his repertory stint at the London Home of the Royal Shakespeare Company, he plans to return to films again.

"Actors and actresses are very lucky in this country to do films and theatre side by side, that is people like myself, Glenda Jackson and Anthony Sher."

His best way of describing the difference between the two is to resort to a running metaphor. Kingsley, who chooses his words with immense care and precision, said "filming is like being a sprinter. You have to pace yourself just right for that 10-second dash. I learn about the psychology of my craft when facing a camera."

"The theatre is like marathon running. That is where you grow.

The stage adds to your intellectual and physical muscle."

A thorough researcher, he plunges eagerly into each new role, keen to study every nuance in a character. For Gandhi, he lost 20 pounds in weight, learnt to spin cotton, darkened his skin with mustard oil, read countless biographies of the Indian independence leader and apostle of non-violence.

"There was this wonderful couple who taught me to spin cotton. One day they brought me along a pair of socks made out of cotton I had spun. They will end up as a family heirloom if the moths don't get them," he said.

Kingsley, who spent almost 20 years on the English stage before being catapulted to international fame in Gandhi, was born Krishna

Britain's 'big freeze' a threat to Mexico plans

LONDON (R) — British hopes of trouble-free preparation for their soccer teams playing in the World Cup finals in Mexico have been undermined by the severe weather.

Frozen grounds have led to the postponement of hundreds of fixtures in the last two weeks.

England, Northern Ireland and Scotland have all been affected by the "big freeze," which is almost certain to result in a chaotic end to the season with international players called upon to play two or three times a week to complete the English league programme.

Some players, like Everton and England striker Gary Lineker and his club-mate Graeme Sharp of Scotland, are likely to have played more than 60 competitive first team matches before they board the flight to Mexico. Many of

those matches will be packed into the last few weeks of the season.

Some clubs are already three or four matches behind schedule in the league programme, while in the Football Association (F.A.) Cup the situation is equally bad and resulted Monday in a near-farical draw for the quarter-finals.

The wintry weather and draws in the only four fifth round ties played last Saturday, meant 16 teams were involved in the complex options of a draw intended to involve only eight.

The fixture congestion will become worse the longer the severe weather continues and will in-

crease the risk of serious injury to potential members of the World Cup squads.

Last month injuries and club commitments forced widespread withdrawals from England's squad to play Egypt in a warm-up match.

The squad which finally travelled to Cairo bore little resemblance to the one named Monday for next week's trip to Israel.

The national teams are not the only losers. Club sides, already fighting against falling attendances and financial problems, have been hit hard by the loss of income from sponsorship, advertising and paying fans.

For example, struggling First Division Aston Villa estimated they had lost more than \$100,000 through the postponement of three matches in the last 12 days.

Swedes dominate Players tennis meet

BOCA RATON, Florida (R) — While others have been getting all the attention, three Swedish players have quietly dominated the \$1.8 million International Players Tennis Championships.

"I love it that way," said second-seeded Mats Wilander, who is joined in Wednesday's quarterfinals by his countrymen Stefan Edberg and Joakim Nystrom.

Wimbledon champion Boris Becker of West Germany was an early upset victim and top seed Ivan Lendl and fourth-seeded Jimmy Connors have advanced in less than top form. The Swedes, meanwhile, have swept straight through.

Wilander, who reached the

round of eight Sunday and rested while the bracket was filled Monday, has dropped only 22 games in eight sets while winning four matches.

The 20-year-old Australian Open champion Edberg has also advanced impressively, dropping only 24 games in eight sets, and Nystrom has been even more successful.

Nystrom has lost just 17 games, eight of those to Pablo Arraya of Peru in a 6-4, 6-4 fourth-round victory delayed by a move from the grandstand court to a field court after Arraya complained of smoke in the air from a food concession grill.

In the quarters, Wilander will

play unseeded Guy Forget of France. Edberg will take on Becker-beater Milan Srejber of Czechoslovakia. Nystrom will tackle Lendl, and Connors plays Yannick Noah of France.

Lendl, the world's top-ranked player, fought off 17-seeded American Jimmy Arias 6-1, 7-5 but was not satisfied.

"It seems I'm having trouble finishing off my matches," Lendl said. "The same thing happened to me in my other matches. I'm not hitting the ball with confidence."

Connors was forced to a third-set tiebreaker by Thierry Tulasne. Connors, 33, prevailed 6-1, 5-7, 7-6 (7-3) after leading the 22-year-old Frenchman 5-2 in the second set.

Noah beat Sweden's Jan Gunnarsson 6-1, 7-6 (7-2) to gain his entry into the quarterfinals.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

IOC awards Olympic Cup to China

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — China has been awarded the 1985 Olympic Cup for promoting sports in Africa, the International Olympic Committee said Tuesday. The announcement of the award to the Chinese Olympic Committee cited its contribution of constructing sports installations in 16 African countries, providing sports equipment and sending Chinese coaches and sports officials to train African athletes. The award, set up in 1906 by Pierre De Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympic movement, is given to organisations that further the Olympic ideal or sports in general.

Zola Budd flees cold British winter

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Zola Budd, who left her native South Africa to run for Britain, returned over the weekend for several weeks of training away from Europe's wintry weather. The South African Press Association (SAPA) said Monday Budd is in Bloemfontein, her home town, and will go to Stellenbosch to train under her coach, Pieter Labuschagne. Budd has become a British citizen but her frequent visits to South Africa continue to stir protests among some British opponents of apartheid. South Africa's system of legalised race separation, SAPA said Labuschagne and his wife, Carin, would accompany Budd when she returned to her new house near London next month.

English First Division clubs to reject league proposals

BIRMINGHAM, England (R) — English First Division clubs have given their most public warning to date that they will break away from the traditional football league unless their plans to revolutionise the game are adopted.

The 22 top-flight clubs voted unanimously Monday to vote against the league management committee's proposals for reshaping the league when they meet on March 4.

They then plan to call their own meeting, probably early in April, to present their own 10-point restructuring package.

Their spokesman, Everton chairman Phil Carter, warned the rest of the 92 league clubs: "If we do not get support then the First Division clubs will have to look at the future again."

"We hate bringing out the idea of a super league or a breakaway. But if things stay the same, there is no way the major clubs will allow themselves to be dragged down into obscurity. We owe it to our fans to avoid that, and we would not let it happen."

The management proposals are seen by the big clubs as a weak, watered-down version of the First Division clubs' discussions, failing to redistribute voting power or shift the balance on the management committee.

The rebels' package has yet to be finalised in detail. But it is known to include a reduction of the First Division to 20 clubs, an increase in the Second Division to 24 and a far greater share of TV and sponsorship cash to the top clubs.

Platini leads France to Mexico

By Derek Parr
Reuter

PARIS — Michel Platini and a French team whose scintillating soccer has charmed fans for a decade will share what may be a last World Cup adventure together in Mexico.

The side created by Michel Hidalgo and rewarded with the European title in 1984 is still largely intact in year two of the reign of Henri Michel as France attempt to scale new World Cup heights after exhilarating 1982 campaign in Spain.

Platini's radiant skills are as vivid as ever, particularly when it matters most — as in the crucial final Group Four match against Yugoslavia here last November when two goals from the master sealed French qualification.

France had left it late — only four of the 24 qualifiers took longer to book their passage to Mexico — and Platini's goals clinched it, just as they did in similar make-or-break matches that took them to Argentina in 1978 and Spain in 1982.

Quarter-finalists in 1938 and semi-finalists in 1958 and 1982, France were either first round victims or failed to qualify at all for other final series, including 1970 and 1974.

This time they found life tough in Group Four against the under-rated East European skills of Bulgaria, East Germany and Yugoslavia, inevitably raising doubts about their ability to maintain their high standards with the passing time.

Platini, whose third European Footballer of the Year award suggests he remains at the peak of his powers, and imperturbable defender Maxime Bossis made their debut in Hidalgo's first game in charge 10 days ago next month.

Those two, plus mercurial striker Dominique Rocheteau and defender Patrick Battiston are heading for their third World Cup. Five key players — Platini and his midfield henchmen Alain Giresse and Jean Tigana, sweeper Bossis, and Rocheteau — are over 30. But Michel professes no doubts

over their capacity to cope with the strains of playing a quick succession of matches in the high altitude of Mexico.

"It has not been proved physiologically that players of a certain age recuperate less well than younger ones," he said.

But the team looked fallible in the qualifiers, suffering 2-0 defeats in Bulgaria and East Germany, the first revealing defensive weaknesses in the air and the second vulnerability to fast counterattacks.

They also demonstrated on old tendency to travel badly, failing to score away except against Luxembourg.

But it takes a cavilling spirit to dwell on such shortcomings in this richly gifted team.

The years have given them immense experience, great cohesion and team spirit, and successes have raised self-confidence. The team's technical ability is unquestioned and their one-touch football is likely to wear out many opponents in the high altitude of Mexico.

In Platini, they possess arguably the finest player in the world. The brilliance of the Juventus star, the deft skill of Giresse and the tenacity and drive of Tigana and Luis Fernandez give France a midfield of unmatched quality.

Fernandez, who has captained Paris Saint-Germain in their runaway charge for the First Division

title this season, and goalkeeper Joel Bats are the two most important additions to the team since Spain.

Bats, who joined Fernandez at the Paris club last year, has solved a long dilemma for France, bringing reliability to the problem position of goalkeeper — formerly the ejector seat for in-and-out aspirants to the national side.

An embarrassment of riches sees Battiston challenging Bossis, holder of a record 67 caps, for the libero role, while up front Rocheteau is developing a useful partnership with Jose Touré, whose ball skills have earned him the flattering nickname of "The Brazilian."

Players and officials agree the draw, pitting them against the Soviet Union, Hungary and Canada in Group C, was a kind one. Bats, in a droll aside, said: "Luckily it wasn't a draw for the ice-hockey world championship."

Argentina, 1978 world champions, will feature in the second of two warm-up internationals at the Parc Des Princes stadium on March 26. Northern Ireland are the first guests on February 26.

The squad, following a pattern set by Hidalgo for the 1982 and 1984 campaigns, spent Christmas and the New Year together with their families in the mountain peace of Font-Romeu in the Pyrenees.

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Cinema OPERA

Abdullah bin Ali Office

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THE GIRLS AND THE UNKNOWN

(Colour)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One sterling	1.4290/4300	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3960/65	Canadian dollars
	2.3515/25	West German marks
	2.6570/80	Dutch guilders
	1.9495/9505	Swiss francs
	48.05/10	Belgian francs
	7.2190/2240	French francs
	1599/1600	Italian lire
	182.00/10	Japanese yen
	7.4300/50	Swedish crowns
	7.3275/3325	Norwegian crowns
	8.6650/6700	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	332.90/333.40	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market closed higher after share prices met renewed demand, with the F.T. 30 and FTSE 100 indices at record highs. At 1530 GMT, the F.T. 30 was 11.4 up at 1,232.1 and the FTSE 100 was 14.7 higher at 1,490.0.

Share prices extended earlier gains but with attention mainly focused on special situation stocks, dealers said. They noted good institutional demand, with sentiment helped by firmer sterling and better than expected U.K. January PSBR repayment figures. Granada was 70p up at 310 after rejecting a £740 million offer from Rank Organisation, 3p higher at 547. ICI fluctuated to end 3p firmer at 857.

Government bonds ended as much as 7/8 point higher mainly in response to firmer sterling and a stock shortage, dealers said. British Aerospace put on 20p to 508 after confirmation of £5 billion Saudi order on Monday, with GEC up 10p to 208 among subcontracting companies. Lucas added 27p to 575. Imperial Group closed 5p down at 315 after news United Biscuits had increased its stake in the company to 14.9 per cent after its 342p per share offer. U.B. was 6p off at 225. Bar firm 20p to 370 reflecting large traded option business and a shortage of stock, dealers said.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, FEB. 19, 1986
GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a day when most persons will change their perspective from being social and interested in public activities to an attitude in which they want to quietly settle down and make plans.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Concentrate on good pals in the morning and what you can do to aid them, but later study how you can become more successful.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Get out in the business world and know how to improve routines. Be supportive of friends.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Early morning is best for winding up a project that you have been working on for some time, and later get into worldly matters.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Solving that problem with your mate can be done early in the day, but later pursue what you personally desire.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Get busy and keep any promises made, but do so with a spark of originality for best results.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) As the day begins, put extra efforts into any work you have to do and get the approval of a bigwig.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You can realize an ambition in the morning, and later get into the specifics connected with it. Keep active and you will be happy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Study what it is your mate desires of you and then try to please, so get that plan working early.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Get into modern interests that inspire you now, and tonight is fine for enjoying your home and family.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You have hit on a new idea for adding to your income and holdings in the morning, so carry through with it.

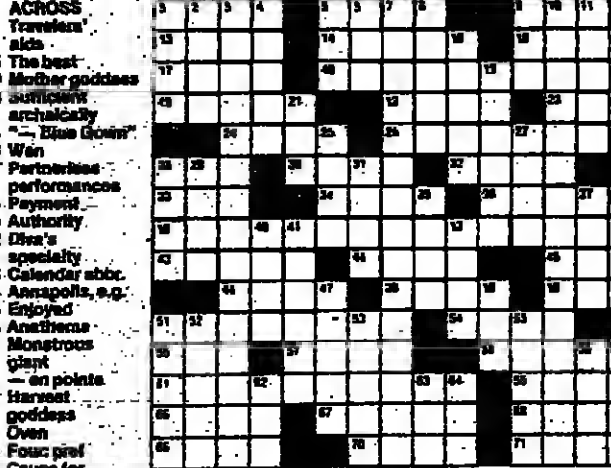
AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Make that plan workable so that you can reach some important goal, and get busy on the work it entails.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Set up a plan of action in the morning to gain your goals of an original nature in the evening.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will have cheerful friends, do well at school with studies and should have the education slanted along social and humanitarian lines, but later in life will turn to the field of investigations and do very well and will be a fine family person. Encourage participation in sports.

THE Daily Crossword

by J. & P. Barwick



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1 Across: 1. Traveler's aid | 4 Across: 4. Cotton fabric |
| 2 Across: 2. The best | 5 Across: 5. Seaman |
| 3 Across: 3. Mother goddess | 6 Across: 6. Cry of approval |
| 4 Across: 4. Ancient archaic | 7 Across: 7. Literary genre |
| 5 Across: 5. "Blue Room" | 8 Across: 8. World |
| 6 Across: 6. "Wan" | 9 Across: 9. Desert |
| 7 Across: 7. Perturbance | 10 Across: 10. Orion and |
| 8 Across: 8. Performance | 11 Across: 11. Oyster |
| 9 Across: 9. Payment | 12 Across: 12. Quindrap |
| 10 Across: 10. Authority | 13 Across: 13. Rousseau work |
| 11 Across: 11. Diet's specialty | 14 Across: 14. Oils |
| 12 Across: 12. Calendar abbr. | 15 Across: 15. Yoko — Lennon |
| 13 Across: 13. Aristotle, e.g. | 16 Across: 16. Dramatic |
| 14 Across: 14. Enjoyed | 17 Across: 17. Conflict |
| 15 Across: 15. Anesthesia | 18 Across: 18. Word |
| 16 Across: 16. Monstrosity | 19 Across: 19. Gauche weapon |
| 17 Across: 17. "an pistol" | 20 Across: 20. Copies |
| 18 Across: 18. Harvest | 21 Across: 21. Star music |
| 19 Across: 19. Oven | 22 Across: 22. Cliché |
| 20 Across: 20. Four pif | 23 Across: 23. Nigger's |
| 21 Across: 21. Cause for legal objection | 24 Across: 24. Second |
| 22 Across: 22. Noted capitalist | 25 Across: 25. Musical |
| 23 Across: 23. Relative | 26 Across: 26. Prescribed amount |
| 24 Across: 24. Boulder | 27 Across: 27. Last letter |
| 25 Across: 25. Accommodated | 28 Across: 28. Conducive to |
| 26 Across: 26. Rimmed catch | 29 Across: 29. Coup d' |
| 27 Across: 27. End of week | 30 Across: 30. Prohibitions |
| 28 Across: 28. Time of day | 31 Across: 31. Deluge |
| 29 Across: 29. Lightweight | 32 Across: 32. Post's word |
| 30 Across: 30. Jan | 33 Across: 33. Roof ornament |
| 31 Across: 31. Coldest tree | 34 Across: 34. Ways: abbr. |
| 32 Across: 32. European | |
| 33 Across: 33. Singer Marlene | |
| 34 Across: 34. Plutonium | |
| 35 Across: 35. Men | |
| 36 Across: 36. Slight blow | |
| 37 Across: 37. Reel | |
| 38 Across: 38. Major member | |
| 39 Across: 39. P.A. colony | |
| 40 Across: 40. Whiskey at 41 | |
| 41 Across: 41. Needles | |
| 42 Across: 42. Goggles | |
| 43 Across: 43. Down | |

'Everybody is fighting everybody' as spot oil market trading grounds to a halt

LONDON (Agencies) — Trading on the highly speculative spot market in Britain's Brent crude oil has ground to a halt amid allegations of fraud and bad faith, putting the once-booming market's survival in doubt, industry sources said.

The crisis has been triggered by the shock of last month's plunge in world oil prices.

A series of crucial meetings is being held in London this week aimed at solving it without resort to the law courts. But already threats of legal action are flying along, with recriminations over who is responsible for a string of recent defaults as traders tried to hack out of deals on which they would lose many millions of dollars.

"The market is totally stalled. No one trusts anyone any more," said one trader.

In a business without written rules, trust between trading partners had been vital to the market's existence, brokers and traders told Reuters.

The multi-billion-dollar spot market in crude oil has mushroomed in the last few years as the oil shortage of the early 1980s gradually turned into a glut. The change persuaded oil companies to abandon long-term contracts which offered secure supplies but at high prices, in favour of much cheaper cargoes on the spot market.

Brent crude became the focus of speculative business and specialised traders were joined by the oil multinationals, Japanese trading houses and New York investment firms.

As turnover grew, Brent became a de facto futures market. Trading would start several months before a cargo was due to be loaded and it could change hands well over 100 times before the ship was actually filled with oil.

These huge, linked lines, known as daisy chains, lie behind the present crisis and point to the shortcomings of the Brent market. If just one company defaults, it can jeopardise all the transactions before and after it in the chain.

Industry sources told Reuters that Gatoli, a trading company which also owns a refinery in Switzerland, suspected that it had been given false nominations for cargoes of Brent loading at the Sullom Voe terminal in Scotland.

A Gatoli spokesman in Geneva declined to comment. However, the sources said Gatoli had bought seven cargoes in advance with flexible loading dates but it became suspicious when it received notification that all seven shipments would load on the last three days of this month.

"Such a target would be almost impossible to achieve. A spokesman for British Petroleum (B.P.), which operates Sullom Voe, said only 11 Brent cargoes loaded during the whole of last week. Weather conditions had been exceptionally good and the terminal had not shut once, which was unusual during the stormy winter.

Gatoli had accepted two cargo

nominations from reputable companies with stakes in North Sea oil fields, the sources said. But it said three or four of the others were false.

Gatoli had not started legal action because the loading dates had not yet arrived, leaving leeway for negotiation, the sources said.

But the market has been thrown into chaos by the knock-on effect of Gatoli's rejection of the nominations. Many firms are threatening legal action against others in the chains for defaulting on deals, some struck many weeks ago.

Where the false nominations came from remains unclear. But industry sources said a firm might have supplied such a nomination to back out of a deal on which it was going to lose heavily.

Trading in Brent cargoes loading in February started last September at about \$26 a barrel. By November prices had hit \$29 but the whole market crashed last month and cargoes would fetch little more than \$17 Tuesday.

Traders who incorrectly forecast these wild fluctuations faced losses of several million dollars on each transaction, enough to put some firms out of business.

Talks on solving the crisis have already started in London as oil traders from all over the world gather for this week's annual Institute of Petroleum dinner and its satellite social events.

Firms have defaulted in the past and problems were often sorted out privately. But losses after the recent price crash could be so large that amicable solutions prove impossible.

"In the past, everyone would try to solve this in a friendly way. But this time there's a big difference... the friendly atmosphere has gone. Everybody's fighting everybody," a broker said, requesting anonymity.

"The problem is there are no written rules to sort this out. (The market relied) on your word of honour," he added.

One of the most attractive aspects of the Brent market was its lack of regulations, the traders said. "If your face fitted, you were admitted to the club," said one.

Because of the breakdown in trust, the Brent market faces at least a dramatic contraction and possible extinction.

If the crisis is solved and large-scale trading resumes, firms will choose their trading partners very carefully and some may be excluded from the circle.

If trust cannot be restored, North Sea producers could resume selling directly to refineries under "netback" supply contracts, which are becoming increasingly popular for other grades, particularly from the Middle East.

They do away with the inflexibility of traditional supply contracts by linking prices to the spot market value of oil products and also eliminate the risks of spot market dealing.

Moscow says it can do little to influence prices

Meanwhile, a senior Soviet official said in Moscow Tuesday the Soviet Union's ability to stop the collapse in world oil prices was limited, but he promised a slight increase in oil deliveries to the Eastern European allies.

Mr. Oleg Bogomolov was asked at a news conference what steps the Soviet Union, the world's largest oil producer, would advocate to halt the fall in prices.

Mr. Bogomolov, director of the Institute of Economics of the World Socialist System in Moscow, replied: "If you talk about world prices, the capacity of the Soviet Union to affect the dynamics of setting oil prices is not significant."

The Soviet Union was earning about 60 per cent of its hard currency from oil exports until the current price fall, but sales to the West have slowed markedly as traditional customers have turned to sellers offering lower prices.

Eastern European countries, which depend almost entirely on Moscow for oil, have expressed concern at stagnant Soviet output and pressed Moscow not to curtail deliveries to them over the next five years.

Mr. Bogomolov, saying final figures for the last five-year plan period between 1981 and 1985 were not available, estimated the Soviet Union had sold some 263 million tonnes of oil and oil products to Eastern Europe from 1981 to 1983.

Referring to expected deliveries from 1986 to 1990, he said: "It will not increase considerably within the next five-year plan. I think it will go up, but not by much."

Western economists in Moscow said one country likely to receive bigger deliveries in this period was Romania, which has been forced to rely increasingly on Soviet oil because of a severe domestic energy crisis.

Soviet oil supplies to Eastern Europe are a major political and economic factor binding the Communist Bloc. They were slashed by 10 per cent in 1982, but Moscow later said deliveries would remain stable from 1986 to 1990.

Mr. Bogomolov said the recent slump in world prices had put the Eastern Europeans at "a slight disadvantage" because they were now paying more for Soviet oil than they would for oil bought on the world market.

Under agreements reached in the communist trade bloc Comcon, the Eastern Europeans pay a price based on the average world price over the last five years.

An article in the official daily Sotsialisticheskaya Industriya said Tuesday problems in the key oil

producing region of Tyumen in Western Siberia were so great that the state plan for oil output in the first quarter of 1986 was threatened.

The daily pointed in particular to problems in supplying enough electricity to oil-producing towns.

It quoted a state planning chief in Tyumen as saying: "Today's energy problems... are the result of serious mistakes admitted by the Soviet Union's power ministry in assessing the prospects for the development of the region."

The ministers for power and oil were both replaced last year and a number of managers in the Tyumen region, which produces 60 per cent of Soviet oil, have been dismissed.

Soviet oil production began to stagnate in November 1983 and last year totalled only 595 million tonnes, compared with 613 million in 1984.

Soviet leader, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, visited the Tyumen area last September in a signal of top-level Kremlin concern over the problem, but official statistics show the stagnation has continued so far this year.

On the other hand, Algeria, one of the three most militant members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), delivered an unprecedented attack Tuesday on the largest OPEC exporter, Saudi Arabia, and its Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani, for unleashing a "price war" against the cartel's other members.

The official daily Al Moudjahid (The Combatant) devoted its entire back page to denouncing the sharp fall in world oil prices which it described as "economic aggression" against the developing countries in general and OPEC in particular.

The attack came as the three militant OPEC members, Algeria, Libya and Iran, met at high level for the second time in two weeks to seek agreement on a joint response to the oil glut.

The meeting of the three nations' oil and foreign ministers convened behind closed doors in Algiers' hilltop Aurassi Hotel.

A communiqué said the ministers would seek ways to "restore the role OPEC must play in the world oil market and restore oil prices to a level compatible with the interests of the producing countries and their development needs."

At a previous meeting in the Libyan capital, Tripoli, earlier this month, the three nations' oil ministers agreed informally to lower their export prices by \$4 a barrel to remain competitive on world markets.

Oil industry sources said they also agreed to make no public announcement of the cut.

Al Moudjahid, which invariably reflects Algerian government policy, said the fall in prices by nearly 50 per cent since November "constitutes the most serious economic aggression that a group of developing countries has had to face since the 1960s."

It blamed the activities of the International Energy Agency, comprising the non-communist industrialised countries — allegedly backed by Saudi Arabia — for the crisis and declared:

"The responsibility of the largest OPEC exporter in this respect is well known. An analysis of Saudi oil policies during the past few years proves undeniably that Saudi Arabia played a very active role in the current degradation of the international market in crude."

It accused Saudi Arabia of "complicity" with the consumer countries in helping them raise their stocks from 60 to 100 days of consumption by flooding the market and thereby turning OPEC into a "marginal element" in the world trade in petroleum products.

The editorial singled out Sheikh Yamani as particularly responsible for the continuing collapse of prices, because of his recent prediction that the spot price could soon drop below \$15 a barrel.

It declared that Sheikh Yamani must have known that this prediction would put new pressure on prices and thus have a direct effect on the world market.

"Whenever the market shows a tendency to stabilise," it declared, "such predictions put everything into question yet again, with the clear objective of disrupting any kind of price stability as soon as it is achieved."

Finally, by granting substantial rebates below the official OPEC price, the editorial said, Saudi Arabia has "abandoned purely and simply its ability to determine the price of crude and has transferred this power from the producer to uncontrollable market forces."

It blamed OPEC for failing to seek agreement on production cuts with non-OPEC oil producers and for making an "ineffective and futile attempt to recapture its share of the world market" by lowering OPEC prices by \$5 a barrel in 1983.

"Instead of allowing themselves to be tricked by the consuming nations into producing more at a lower price, the non-OPEC producers should have adopted an intelligent and well-considered policy by seeking agreement with the (OPEC) countries with which they have a special affinity and adopting a collective attitude of solidarity toward the consuming countries."

It said Saudi Arabia and certain unnamed other OPEC producers deliberately failed to hold their prices until the OPEC emergency conference planned next month by unleashing "a ruinous and dramatic price war."

The responsibility for the present situation therefore falls on a group of nations which apparently took account only of their own interests, without consideration for the immense harm this attitude was bound to cause," it added.

"The Third World exporters, whether or not they belong to OPEC, will be the only losers, to the benefit of the rich countries which count on this windfall to solve their own economic problems."

"The consequence of this act of irresponsibility will be a colossal transfer of financial resources to the rich countries, without any corresponding decrease in the quantities of oil sold globally by the OPEC countries," it concluded.

Oman shows cooperation

Contrasting the Algerian stand, Oman has expressed readiness to cooperate with (OPEC) in its efforts to stabilise the world oil market and protect the interest of "all producers," according to United Arab Emirates (UAE's) Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Mana Said Otaiba.

Dr. Otaiba, who was in Oman Monday for a one-day visit, said on his return to Abu Dhabi that he found Sultan Qaboos and the Omani government had "great understanding" of the role of OPEC in trying to solve current oil market difficulties.

He said Omani officials had stressed the need "to do everything" to solve the problems.

Dr. Otaiba said he delivered a message on the "difficult market circumstances" from UAE President Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan to Sultan Qaboos.

He also conferred with Omani Oil Minister Said Al Shanbari on the latest market developments.

Dr. Otaiba added that both sides emphasised the importance of cooperation between OPEC and non-OPEC producers to achieve market stability.

UAE Deputy Prime Minister Hamdan bin Mohammad said at a meeting in Abu Dhabi with a visiting British official that the competition between oil exporting countries would lead to a "great loss" for everybody, including oil consuming nations.

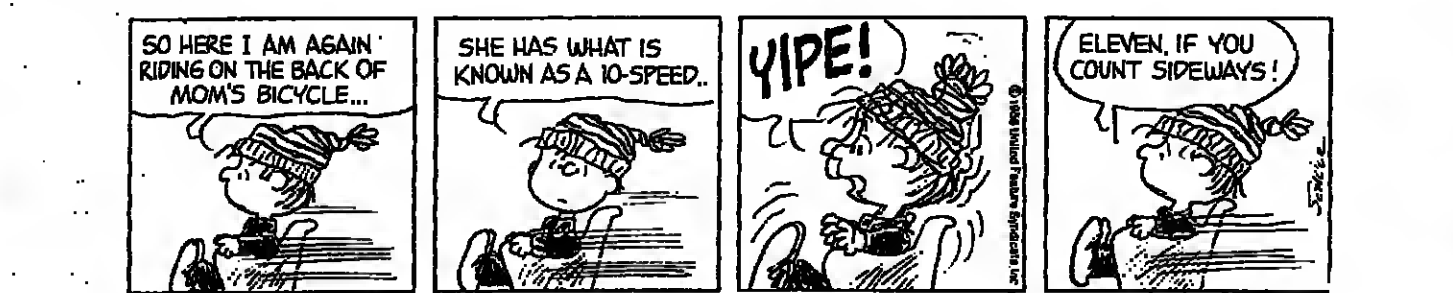
In Jakarta, Indonesian Mines and Energy Minister Subroto said that a number of non-OPEC producers have indicated willingness to cooperate with the organisation in its efforts to stabilise the world oil market.

He named Mexico, Egypt, Oman and the Soviet Union among non-OPEC countries which had made a favourable response to calls for dialogue and cooperation among world oil producers.

A spokesman for the Norwegian energy ministry, Mr. Egil Hille, told OPECNA Monday there were no short-term plans to curb the oil market's production.

The country's current production of around 800,000 bpd might be raised slightly next year.

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff

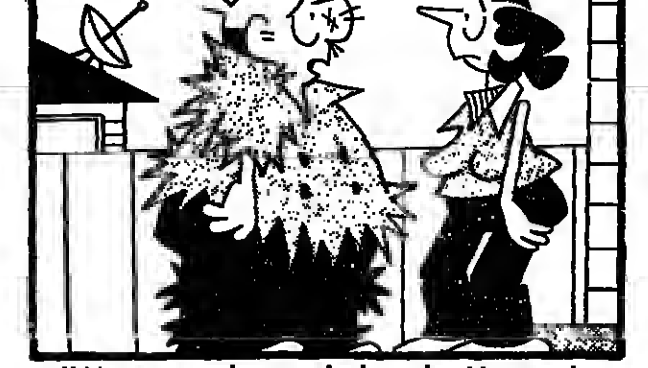


Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

Sign here

ANKEW

NEFTO

BLACOT

SLUIBY

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A "OOOOO"—"OOOOO" ONE

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: OPIUM DAUNT CLEAVE RARITY

Answer: What kind of milk does an invisible baby get, naturally?—EVAPORATED

Clergyman reports 80 killed in fresh S. African protests

ALEXANDRIA, South Africa (Agencies) — A leading South African clergyman said Tuesday he had reports that about 80 people were killed in four days of protests in a black township in Johannesburg.

Beyers Naude, general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, told Reuters after trying to mediate between police and residents: "We have had reports of approximately 80 being killed and 300 wounded or killed."

"There is no doubt that the situation in Alexandra is extremely serious."

Meanwhile Adriaan Volk, deputy minister of law and order and defence told parliament nineteen people have been killed in four days of protests in Johannesburg's Alexandra black township.

Replying to a question from opposition parliamentarian Helen Suzman, he said 16 blacks had been killed by police. Two residents had been burned to death and a policeman was killed by the protesters.

At least 37 people were injured, most by police gunfire, he added.

Naude, along with Nobel Peace Prize laureate Bishop Desmond Tutu and anti-apartheid clergyman Allan Boesak, visited the township in an attempt to defuse the tense situation.

Naude said he had received pleas from people in the township to intervene. The three were not allowed past an army roadblock at the entrance to the township, which was effectively under siege by the South African army.

Several local and foreign correspondents were ordered away from Alexandra township and affluent whites-only suburbs surrounding it as police and troops threw a massive cordon around the area which erupted in violence on Saturday.

Eyewitnesses said thousands of Alexandra residents thronged a main square of the dusty township to decide what to do in the face of

the clampdown. They were watched by troops in an army helicopter and massive security was evident.

Police refused to disclose information on the situation. Any reports of widespread violence were bound to anger the government which was preparing for crucial London talks on Thursday in a desperate bid to resolve a foreign debt crisis.

Alexandra, relatively quiet during two years of nationwide unrest, which has claimed some 1,120 lives, is an anomaly on the apartheid map: A black enclave situated in the midst of Johannesburg, the country's biggest white city and its commercial heart.

Witnesses said several foreign correspondents were being escorted to a police station just outside Alexandra but it was not immediately clear whether they would be charged for entering a restricted area.

The ban on the media entering white suburbs around Alexandra was unprecedented, even by the

standards of a harsh clampdown on unrest coverage imposed in November.

It reflected the challenge posed by the prospect of mass protests within eyesight of white homes so far spared the brunt of racial violence gripping the country.

From the surrounding white areas, reporters had been able to give eye-witness accounts of the unrest and take photographs.

The violence in Alexandra, home for some 100,000 people, erupted on Saturday after the funeral of a local resident.

Racial violence, which experienced a lull around the new year, flared up in earnest in many townships around the country over the past few days.

The latest fatality reported by police from Alexandra was gunned down Monday night when security forces opened up with shotguns to disperse protesters.

A woman was also killed when a house was petrol-bombed in Soweto, the huge township of some two million inhabitants just outside Johannesburg.

Cardboard soldiers guard East German border

BONN (R) — East Germany is using dummy soldiers made of cardboard to man watchtowers along its heavily fortified frontier with West Germany, the Interior Ministry in Bonn said Tuesday.

In its annual report on the Federal Border Police, the ministry said its patrols had registered increasing deployment of the dummies during 1985 as real Communist soldiers were relocated to the rear zone of the border strip.

In the forward frontier area the watchtowers were increasingly left unmanned. Cardboard figures were installed in them to fool people trying to escape (to the West)," it said.

Another reason for the cardboard cut-outs could be a growing manpower shortage in the East German border troops, which had begun to recruit women for active service for the first time, the report added.

More than 700 watchtowers dot the border, running 1700 kilometres from the Baltic to the Czechoslovak frontier.

East Berlin has been redeveloping and modernising frontier fortifications over the past two years and the report said that as an apparent result the number of successful escapes plummeted from 54 in 1984 to only 30 last year.

Eight of those who fled were East German soldiers, it added.

Although East Germany had cleared away the last minefields in the border zone last year, the construction of new fences, dog-runs and more sensitive alarm devices had made the frontier more difficult to penetrate than before.

Border troops were now largely deployed on the Eastern side of the zone in more mobile units in a strategy aimed at capturing would-be escapees before they reached the final hurdles to the West, the report said.

Patrols by West German Border Police gathered evidence of at least 26 escape attempts by East Germans which were foiled in the frontier strip in 1985, it added.

They also registered 14 incursions by East German soldiers onto West German territory but failed to apprehend any of those responsible.

Although observation of the East-West frontier remained the prime task of the border force, it was increasingly involved in dealing with an influx of Third World refugees through normal frontier crossings.

Stopping Tylenol capsule sales to cost millions

NEW BRUNSWICK, New Jersey (R) — Drug companies are reviewing their capsule medication marketing following Johnson and Johnson's decision to halt all capsule sales after the second round of Tylenol poisonings in three years.

Johnson and Johnson said Monday that stopping production of capsule medicines would cost the firm \$150 million.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) praised the action but said a total ban on capsules of non-prescription drugs would be premature.

The company lost \$100 million in 1982 when it recalled all Tylenol after seven people in Chicago died from cyanide-laced Tylenol.

Monday's move came after two Tylenol bottles containing cyanide were found in Westchester County, a suburb north of New York City. A woman died after swallowing two of the poisoned capsules.

Francophone summit seeks to battle growing use of English

PARIS (R) — Leaders of some 40 countries attending the first French-speaking summit on Tuesday outlined a battle plan to halt the growing use of English around the world.

The three-day pioneer summit that opened on Monday has been hailed by the 15 heads of state, 12 government leaders and score of ministers participating as a chance to build a Francophone commonwealth of nations, rivaling the Commonwealth grouping of former British colonies.

The only common bond linking the richer French-speaking members such as France, Canada or Belgium, to some of the world's poorest nations, such as Haiti or Burkina Faso, is language.

Preoccupied by the onslaught of English as an international language, host President Francois Mitterrand has called for the defence of French to be a top priority.

French officials boast that while the 38 countries and three regions at the summit represent only 120

million people, a bare four per cent of the world population, French along with English remains the only tongue to spread across five continents.

To rally the economically-troubled developing nations to the linguistic war, delegates on Tuesday were to combine proposals for aid and technology transfer schemes from the industrialised nations with a series of schemes to boost the influence of French.

French Overseas Cooperation Minister Christian Nucci offered 25 million francs (\$3.3 million) over three years for agriculture and crafts in Benin, Burkina Faso, Rwanda and Niger.

Quebec premier Robert Bourassa suggested the creation of Francophone agencies on energy technology and training.

But officials said the accent was likely to be on the setting up of joint computer banks of new French terms in the fields of science and technology.

Nakasone denies he has decided against 3rd term

TOKYO (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone Tuesday denied he had told another top politician that he was not thinking of staying in office after his current term expires later this year.

Sin Kanemaru, secretary-general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), said earlier Tuesday that Mr. Nakasone had told him recently: "I am not thinking of seeking re-election for a third term."

The prime minister, asked to comment on Mr. Kanemaru's statement, said he made no remarks to the LDP secretary-general on whether he would step down or not.

"All I said was I will follow party rules," Mr. Nakasone told reporters.

The rules allow the LDP leader, who in practice also becomes prime minister, only two two-year terms in office.

Mr. Nakasone was re-elected LDP chief in November, 1984, and his second term expires on October 30. But it has been widely predicted he may try to change the rules and stay on for a third term.

Mr. Kanemaru is believed to back Finance Minister Noboru Takeshita as Mr. Nakasone's successor.

Tamil guerrillas free kidnapped British woman

COLOMBO (R) — Tamil separatist guerrillas Tuesday freed a kidnapped British woman in Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna district, eyewitnesses said.

They said Penelope Eva Willis, 64, whom the guerrillas accused of being a British spy, was handed over Tuesday to a British diplomat and a British 'Red Cross' representative at Nulher in Jaffna.

"She seemed in good health," one witness told Reuters.

Willis was kidnapped by the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS) at Mullativu on Sri Lanka's north eastern coast on Jan. 18. They accused her of being a "front" for the British intelligence agency MI6.

The British High Commission (embassy) in Colombo said last month that Willis was a freelance journalist writing under the name of Tremayne for journals covering international affairs.

EROS is one of five guerrilla groups fighting for a separate Tamil state in the north and east of Sri Lanka.

The deputy British High Commissioner in Colombo, P. Langridge, later told Reuters: "Mrs. Willis was released this evening."

Mr. Langridge said Willis would be flown to Colombo.

The Johnson and Johnson announcement came as police in Westchester said they were investigating the possibility that a bottle of the pain reliever Anacin had been tampered with.

They said that while the outer seal on the Anacin box was apparently intact when opened, the bottle was cracked and its aluminium seal had been punctured.

After the seven Chicago deaths, Johnson and Johnson spent \$100 million on a Tylenol recall. When the product returned to the market, it had three tamper-resistant seals.

Nevertheless, two bottles each having five capsules containing 90 per cent cyanide turned up in two nearby stores last week in Brooklyn, a Westchester community.

Burke, saying that the chances of this happening were one in a billion, maintaining the tampering occurred after the Tylenol reached the stores.

"If we allow terrorists to blackmail the American public and take away their freedom, where do we begin to draw the line?" said Deputy Commissioner John Norris.

A group of packaging experts will meet with FDA officials to decide what further precautions can be made.

Search for shuttle's rocket intensifies

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — A deep-diving nuclear submarine headed here Tuesday to join the search for the remains of a booster rocket that may have caused the explosion of spaceship Challenger.

The NR-1, a seven-man navy sub which can operate at a depth of 800 metres, was being towed from Connecticut by its support ship, the USS Sunbird.

The 42-metre sub is equipped with cameras, floodlights and a grappling arm.

Scout from surface ships and photos taken by a smaller four-man sub, the Johnson Sea-Link 2, indicate parts of the right booster are on the floor of the Atlantic Ocean, 360 metres down, 70 kilometres north east of Cape Canaveral.

The Sea-Link 2 has been photographing the suspected wreckage for three days and its robot arm has brought a few small pieces to the surface.

Photos and videotapes taken by

Thatcher pledges to retain party leadership

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said she would fight to retain the leadership of the ruling Conservative Party if a challenger emerged later this year.

Commenting in a television interview Monday on the possibility that a rival might take advantage of her low standing in opinion polls to mount a leadership bid, she said:

"So be it. I shall fight, yes, because I believe that we have in fact done things that no other government dares to tackle and I believe that we will go on tackling those things."

Mrs. Thatcher's interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation was her first since the controversy over the future of Westland helicopter company led to the resignation of two cabinet ministers last month.

Mrs. Thatcher said of the Westland affair, which has resulted in her worst opinion poll rating for four years: "I don't think in the long term it has had very much effect."

She said the Westland crisis was a minor matter compared with the 1982 Falklands war against Argentina or the year-long coal strike which collapsed last March.

Mrs. Thatcher's style of leadership has come under fire from a number of leading Conservatives, including former Defence Minister Michael Heseltine who resigned over the Westland affair on Jan. 9.

He and other senior ministers have argued for a change in the tone and direction of government policies and a greater urgency in tackling record unemployment.

Mrs. Thatcher said she believed the government had the right approach to reduce unemployment in the long run, and Britain was producing more new jobs than other European countries.

The only way to create new jobs, she said, was for people to set up new businesses and expand existing enterprises.

They said travellers reported daily sweeps by Communist troops in villages north of the capital, Kabul, in an apparent move to keep the Salang Highway to the Soviet border clear of guerrillas.

Villages bordering the highway were bombarded and one village near the town of Istalif destroyed and looted with most of its residents fleeing to Kabul or Pakistan, they said.

The Istalif area was also bombed heavily on Feb. 10 or 11 in apparent retaliation for guerrilla ambushes two days previously on two military and two civilian convoys, the diplomats said.

Kabul itself was reported relatively quiet during the past week. The official Bakhtar News Agency said up to 15 centimetres of snow fell on the capital Monday.

The Western diplomats agreed with earlier reports by guerrilla sources that there had been heavy fighting in Nangarhar province close to the Pakistan border since late January.

They said numerous casualties had been reported in a series of engagements in the Nangarhar area.

The guerrilla sources said a large force of Soviet and Afghan troops began an operation against the guerrillas on Jan. 27 when they reached Nangarhar with about 200 tanks and other vehicles.

Outcome of Spain's NATO referendum is uncertain

MADRID (R) — Doubts are growing over whether Spain's Socialist government can win a poll next month to keep the country in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

With only weeks to go before the March 12 referendum, opinion polls indicate that voters are resisting Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez's call to support his change of heart and stay in the alliance.

The Socialists, left to campaign on their own for continued membership, put their political machine into top gear this week. Senior officials fanned through the country to spread their campaign slogan: "In Spain's interest, vote yes."

"Leave us in peace," "NATO no, (U.S.) bases out," reply anti-NATO campaigners, also stepping up pressure. Six policemen were injured and eight protesters detained in a weekend anti-NATO rally in Barcelona.

At stake is whether the Western alliance will lose its 16th and newest member, four years after it joined.

Officials say a Spanish pullout from NATO could put pressure on other countries, particularly Greece, which also has a Socialist government, to hold similar polls.

Mr. Gonzalez, saying he learnt from history, reversed his opposition to NATO after being elected in 1982. "Remaining in the alliance means that we shall directly share Europe's destiny," he says.

Air raids cause Afghan civilian casualties

ISLAMABAD (R) — Retaliatory raids by Soviet and Afghan planes on villages around the western Afghan town of Herat caused up to 200 civilian casualties, Western diplomats said Tuesday.

They quoted reports received from Afghanistan as saying the bombing on Feb. 7 or 8 was in retaliation for guerrilla attacks on eight military posts around Herat on Jan. 29 when up to 90 Afghan and Soviet soldiers were killed.

The diplomats said more than 100 civilian casualties were also reported in bombing by Soviet and Afghan planes on Jan. 20 near the southern town of Ghazni. Rebels had shot down four helicopters and two jets in the area, they said.

They said Afghan guerrillas were reported preparing for a major offensive around the southern eastern Garrison town of Khost and fighting had increased in the eastern provinces of Kunar and Nangarhar.

The diplomats said 170 Afghan soldiers were reported to have defected or been captured by the guerrillas during fighting around Herat last month.

They said travellers reported daily sweeps by Communist troops in villages north of the capital, Kabul, in an apparent move to keep the Salang Highway to the Soviet border clear of guerrillas.

Villages bordering the highway were bombarded and one village near the town of Istalif destroyed and looted with most of its residents fleeing to Kabul or Pakistan, they said.

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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OWEN SHERIF
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 762 ♥ AKQ85 ♦ A10 ♣ J83
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
2 ♥ Pass 2 ♦ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.2 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ K398 ♥ 6 ♦ AKJ976 ♣ 103
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♥ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
2 ♥ Pass 2 ♥ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.3 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ AJ765 ♥ AK943 ♦ 6 ♣ K3
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
What do you take?

Q.4 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ AQJ96 ♥ AK963 ♦ 6 ♣ 98
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
What do you take?

Q.5 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ AQJ63 ♥ J10752 ♦ K6 ♣ 43
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one spade. What action do you take?

Q.6 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ AQJ63 ♥ J10752 ♦ K6 ♣ 43
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one heart. What action do you take?

COLUMN 800000

Hyenas kept out, but bees disrupt party

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Hyenas trying to join a farewell party for a local official were kept out, but a swarm of bees had better luck, the Kenya News Agency reported Tuesday. The state-run agency said bees attacked about 30 cooks, police guards and guests awaiting the arrival of the outgoing chief officer of the northern Moyale district, David Amdany, at a party in his honour over the weekend. Almost everyone in the house was stung at least twice before they could flee, the agency said. It said the party was delayed more than four hours until a team of police and civil servants, led by the master of ceremonies, routed the bees with insecticide and strips of burning tires. When the party resumed, another swarm of bees which assembled on a fence kept everybody on their toes but did not attack, the agency said. "Hyenas were roaring in the compound," it added, but administration police provided security.

Saudi astronaut to donate his kidneys

BAHRAIN (R) — The Arab World's first astronaut, Prince Sultan bin Salman bin Abdul Aziz, has signed a pledge to donate his kidneys after his death to patients in need of transplants, the official Saudi Press Agency reported from Riyadh. Prince Sultan was a crewmember on a mission by the U.S. space shuttle Challenger last year.

Cypriot who beheaded daughter jailed for life

NICOSIA (R) — A Cypriot who beheaded his teenage daughter for opposing his attempts to return to his estranged wife was jailed for life. Dimitris Miliotis, 57, slaughtered 17-year-old Evi with 15 blows from a carpenter's adze as she slept in a relative's house in a Nicosia suburb last September. Evi had tried to commit suicide earlier in the year after Miliotis sought to return to his wife in Limassol. Miliotis pleaded not guilty, but Judge Solon Nikitas rejected his plea that he did not know what he was doing.

Gunman uses snake to rob ticket clerk

NEW YORK (R) — A thief first pulled a handgun then pushed a snake into a bullet-proof glass booth in a failed attempt to rob an underground subway ticket clerk, police said. A New York City transit spokesman said the gunman released the snake through the coin slot when the woman salesclerk refused to respond to the firearm. The salesclerk, who later admitted being more terrified of the snake than the gun, still refused to open the door to the booth and instead tripped a special alarm, the spokesman said. The gunman fled empty-handed. Police seized his accomplice, a harmless garden snake, and turned it over to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Dwarf-throwing contest cancelled

BONN (R) — An international dwarf-throwing competition in West Germany next month has been cancelled following protest from Small People, the organizer has said. Jomy Carroll, director of the entertainment agency responsible for organising the contest, told Reuters he had called off the competition after receiving complaints from organisations for People of Restricted Growth in West Germany, Britain and the Netherlands. Carroll said he also considered the competitors, a British group called Oddities who use a 1.32 metre man called Eddy the giant as one of their human props, were not professional enough. "Dwarf-throwing started in Australia a few years ago as a gimmick to attract customers in bars and next month's competition was planned as an entertainment for British troops based in West Germany," the Frankfurt-based Organisation of People of Restricted Growth said. It had protested to the Australian and British embassies about what it called a "degrading spectacle." Carroll said he planned to release a record about Eddy the giant's experiences as a dwarf-throwing contestant and part of the profits would go towards organisations for Small People.